



## **For Immediate Release**

**July 16, 2010**

### **Chaney Tours Oil Spill, Receives Briefing**

BILOXI \_ Mississippi Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney Friday met with officials in charge of the continuing oil spill in the Mississippi Gulf to be updated on the situation as it stands over two months after BP LLC's Deepwater Horizon exploded and killed 11 people.

Following a fly-over tour of the oil spill Chaney issued the following statement:

“The situation appears better than it was three days ago, before the well was capped. I can still see a lot of sheen and have great concerns about the long-term effects of the oil, especially if we have a hurricane. I want to encourage all coastal residents to prepare now in the event of a hurricane. They should review their homeowner's policy and if they are in an area that requires flood insurance, they should purchase flood insurance as soon as possible.”

Chaney and the Mississippi Insurance Department have been monitoring the on-going oil spill, which has discharged millions of gallons of crude oil into the waters of the Gulf, threatening the state's fragile ecosystem and the livelihoods and property of Mississippi residents. This was the latest of the Commissioner's several trips to the coast to survey the situation first hand.

“While we continue to believe that responsibility for the cleanup and the economic damages done to Mississippi and her citizens are BP's and BP's alone, we are staying on top of the situation as best we can to be certain we have a thorough understanding of all aspects of the disaster,” Chaney said Friday.

Chaney and members of the MID staff met with Dr. Bill Walker, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources to be briefed on the ongoing efforts to stop the

oil from flowing from the damaged wellhead and contain the oil already in the Gulf and working its way onto Mississippi beaches.

British Petroleum phone numbers, for anyone who has a question or needs to file a claim, are posted on the MID website under the notifications tab.

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