

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

Majority (202) 225-5051
Minority (202) 225-5074

May 25, 2010

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

On May 14, 2010, I wrote to advise you that the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform has opened an investigation into the management, operation, and effectiveness of the Minerals Management Service, including matters relating to the *Deepwater Horizon* explosion and subsequent oil spill. To assist in that investigation, I requested that you provide certain information and records to the Committee no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 21, 2010.

As of today, the Committee has not received any of the requested information and records. Moreover, I have not even received an official acknowledgement of my letter. After repeated phone calls by Committee staff, we were informed today that the requested information and records will not be produced any time soon and that no estimate can be provided as to when the Committee will receive this information. While I understand that your agency and the Minerals Management Service are under a great deal of pressure at the moment, to have this request ignored is simply unacceptable.

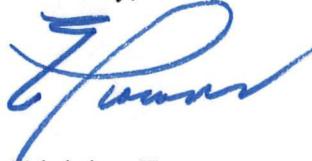
The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee in the U.S. House of Representatives, with jurisdiction over "any matter." Under the House Rules, we are fully empowered and obligated to conduct oversight investigations of this nature. It is imperative that the Committee obtain this information so that we can conduct a thorough and timely investigation.

I am sensitive to the burdens on your office at this time. Therefore, I am hereby requesting that you provide no later than Friday, May 28, 2010, a specific timetable for the production of the information and records originally requested in my May 14, 2010 letter.

The Honorable Ken Salazar
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Should you have any questions about this request, you may call me directly or your staff may contact John Arlington of the Committee staff at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,



Edolphus Towns
Chairman

cc:

The Honorable Darrell Issa
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform