



BP Deepwater Disaster:

Tell Congress: no drilling, no coal, clean energy now!

The Deepwater Horizon accident and oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico is a disaster unfolding before our eyes. Eleven lives were lost in the initial explosion, and that incalculable loss is compounded daily as oil continues to flow. On April 20th, 2010, the failure of United States' energy policy once again was demonstrated in the Gulf. An explosion engulfed the Deep Horizon exploratory drilling platform, leased and operated by British Petroleum, and led to its collapse and sinking days later. The wellhead, 5,000 feet below the surface of the ocean, was ruptured and remains so. The leaking well is now spilling hundreds of thousands of gallons of oil per day into the Gulf. This is a human, economic and environmental tragedy, and reveals the awful truth about our dependence on fossil fuels. We need to change our course NOW.

Important Tips for Sending in a Letter:

- 1. Check your local paper's website** to see how they accept letters to the editor. Typically, you'll paste a letter into their site or email it to the opinion desk.
- 2. Keep it short** - most papers accept 250 words or less. Use our bullet points to guide your writing.
- 3. Personalize your letter.** Add something like "as someone who loves watching birds" or "as someone who voted for Obama" or...
- 4. Submit your letter** and make sure to include your name and city. Then let us know if you get yours printed! Email the link to activists@sfo.greenpeace.org
- 5. Call the paper** to confirm they received it. A quick call reminds them you're a real person and gives them a chance to confirm your contact info. A simple follow-up call greatly increases your chance of getting your letter printed. Simply say, "Hi, I'd like to speak to the opinion desk. My name is _____. On ___ day, I submitted a letter about the oil spill. Did you get it? Does it meet your requirements? When do you think it will get printed?"
- 6. Send in more letters** – ask friends to send a letter or send different letters to different local papers.

BP Oil Spill Facts to include:

- Every day since April 20th 210,000 gallons of oil have spilled into the Gulf of Mexico from a rig leased by BP
- This disaster not only threatens to destroy fragile ecosystems that support sharks, tuna, whales, and other marine species, but also the coastal communities that depend on them.
- The oil industry has spent millions on lobbying and ads that duped people into thinking "drill baby drill" was sane energy policy.
- President Obama should immediately restore the moratorium on new offshore drilling while Congress gets to work on a permanent ban.
- We need a clean energy revolution, and we need it now.