UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
Audit, Internal Control and Information Management

August 15, 2012

Laura W. Christensen
Jackson Gilmour & Dobbs, PC
451 Florida Street, Suite 720
Baton Rouge, LA 70801-1731

Re: FOIA Request No. **2012-00338**

Dear Ms. Christensen:

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated May 11, 2012, in which you requested **"any and all records that provided a basis for David Kennedy's statement that 'NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration is fully engaged in responding to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Although unlikely, if another large spill were to occur simultaneously in another location elsewhere in the United States, NOAA would have difficulty responding to its complete ability.'"**

This letter completes our response to your request. A summary follows:

- Eight pages are enclosed in two pdf documents and released in full.
- One half page is being withheld and three pages are enclosed as a pdf document and released in part pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(b) (5) which exempts from disclosure records consisting of opinions, recommendations, and other reflections of staff thinking integral to pre-decisional, deliberative process.
- Nineteen pages are withheld in full pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(b) (5) which exempts from disclosure records consisting of opinions, recommendations, and other reflections of staff thinking integral to pre-decisional, deliberative process.
- One page is enclosed as a pdf document and 27 are not being released as being non-responsive .
- Three pages are referred to the United States Coast Guard for review and release determination .

Based on the above information, this constitutes a partial denial of your request. You may appeal this denial of information. Your appeal must be received within 30 calendar days of the date of initial denial letter by the Assistant General Counsel for Administration. Address your appeal to the following office:

Assistant General Counsel for Administration
Room 5898-C
U.S. Department of Commerce
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Your appeal may be sent by email to FOIAAppeals@doc.gov or by facsimile (fax) to (202) 482-2552. Your appeal must include a copy of the original request, the response to your request, and a statement of the reason the withheld records should be made available and why the denial of the records was in error. Also, the appeal letter, the envelope, the email subject line, and the fax cover sheet should be clearly marked **"Freedom of Information Act Appeal."**

The email, fax machine, and Office of the General Counsel mailbox are monitored **only** on working days during the normal business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday). FOIA appeals posted to the email box, fax machine, or Office of the General Counsel mailbox after business hours will be deemed received on the next normal business day.

If you choose not to appeal, but have questions please contact me at (301) 713-3540.

Sincerely,

Wendy Schumacher

Wendy Schumacher
NOAA FOIA Officer