

## **Shoreline Clean-up Completion Plan (SCCP) FAQs**

### **December 15, 2011**

#### **Q: What is the SCCP?**

The SCCP was created to ensure that the clean-up endpoints are clear and the processes used to verify that the shorelines meet these endpoints are understood and followed. The clean-up endpoints and processes in the SCCP are not new, but have been updated and refined from those contained in earlier plans used in the Response.

#### **Q: When was the SCCP signed?**

The SCCP was collaboratively written by the U.S. Coast Guard, Gulf States, NOAA, DOI and BP - collectively known as the Gulf Coast Incident Management Team (GC-IMT). The SCCP was written over a two month period and was signed by the Federal On Scene Coordinator (FOSC) on November 2, 2011.

#### **Q: How clean is clean?**

The SCCP provides clear standards for defining clean based on shoreline type. The standard development took into account the fact that in some areas further cleanup activities would cause more harm than good.

#### **Q: How long will the clean up continue?**

The GC-IMT is working to facilitate movement towards Gulf Coast restoration while, at the same time, making sure the remainder of the identified areas are cleaned. The Deepwater Horizon cleanup will continue until all of the areas impacted by the spill have been removed from the response. Currently, there are nearly 1,000 people still working on the efforts and the amount of personnel and equipment continues to be adjusted to meet the clean-up standards and processes agreed upon in the SCCP.

#### **Q: What happens if Deepwater Horizon oil is found after a beach has been removed from the response?**

If oil is observed in the environment, the National Response Center (NRC-1-800-424-8802) should be notified. The NRC is run by the Coast Guard and as with any report of oil, the Coast Guard has the responsibility to investigate the reports, determine the Responsible Party (RP) if possible, and hold them accountable for the cleanup. If oil appears in areas that have already been deemed as "clean," the Coast Guard will respond according to Coast Guard's established policy and procedures and allocate time, resources and personnel to investigate the cause and mitigate any environmental impact.

#### **Q: How does the Coast Guard determine an RP?**

The Coast Guard works to identify an RP through the use of sampling, fingerprinting and other investigative means. If oil is found to be MC252 in any area that has been previously declared as clean, BP will be held accountable for the cleanup.

If an RP cannot be identified, the Coast Guard can contract with an Oil Spill Response Organizations (OSRO) for the cleanup. Recognizing that there may be an increase of NRC reports in the Gulf Coast area, Coast Guard Sector and field offices along the Gulf

Coast will have additional personnel dedicated to working on completing the SCCP and respond to oil incidents.

**Q: If necessary, how long will it take the Coast Guard to fingerprint new oil that shows up on areas deemed clean?** It takes a few days to get fingerprinting results as the samples must be collected and sent to the Coast Guard testing lab in New London, Conn. However, awaiting the results does not keep the CG from responding to a reported pollution incident.

**Q: Will the Coast Guard investigate every report of oiling on clean areas?** Recognizing that there may be an increase in oil reports as shorelines are removed from response, the Coast Guard has made plans to increase staff in its Sectors to ensure timely oil report follow-up. Each oil report will be evaluated to identify the proper response and handled appropriately.

**Q: How long will the Coast Guard be able to identify oil impacts as MC252?** The fingerprinting method does not have an expiration date. The oil will biodegrade before the ability to fingerprint it is lost.

**Q: Does the SCCP include a long-term monitoring plan?** The SCCP exception process allows for segments to stay in the response for an extended period if warranted and will be handled on a case-by-case basis. As noted above, if oil appears in the environment the NRC should be notified.

**Q: With continuing reports of oil near the MC252 well location, what plans are there for the Coast Guard to monitor that area for more oil and to determine its source?**

In the case of a pollution incident, the Coast Guard will continue to follow established protocol, including sampling, fingerprinting, and other investigative means, to identify the source and name the RP. If oil is found to be MC252 oil, then BP will be held accountable for the cleanup.

Since the initial spill, the Coast Guard has responded to NRC reports from incidents around the BP spill site. In late August, 2011, the Coast Guard saturated the areas around the Macondo well and Mississippi Canyon block 252 by air and by sea to fully investigate reports of new oiling. Remotely operated vehicles were deployed by BP to provide another layer of visibility in the area of the Macondo well. These efforts resulted in no findings of MC 252 oil on the surface of the water in the area of the Macondo well, no findings of MC 252 oil on the surface of water in Mississippi Canyon block 252 and no evidence of a leak of oil near the well head of the Macondo well.

In early October (Oct. 4-5, 2011), Transocean deployed additional ROVs to survey the riser pipe and debris field in response to the Notice of Federal Interest (NOFI), issued by the Coast Guard on Sept. 27, 2011. These visual inspections indicated that there was no release of oil from the riser, the fuel tanks or any other debris at the wreckage site and no

discharge or leaking from the riser or wreckage was observed. There was no oil product either on the surface or the subsurface that could be sampled.

Video footage taken from the ROVs of the wellhead, riser pipe and debris field, as well as the NOFI, can be found at [www.restorethegulf.gov](http://www.restorethegulf.gov).

**Q: When will NRDA projects start?**

NRDA projects can begin once segments meet clean-up criteria and are removed from the Response. The SCCP does include an exception process to remove a shoreline from the Response prior to its meeting clean-up criteria so a NRDA project can begin. This is important because there are several projects that have been identified and funded and are critical to recovery of the system. NRDA projects and status can be found on the NRDA website: <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/>. Several restoration projects have been identified, and can be found on the NRDA website: <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/>.

**December 15, 2011**