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December 6, 2011

Mr. David J. Lesar
Chairman, President and CEO
Halliburton
10200 Bellaire Blvd
Houston, TX 77072

Dear Mr. Lesar:

According to news reports, BP filed court papers on Monday that charge Halliburton with having “intentionally destroyed evidence” related to the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster that ultimately became the worst environmental disaster in American history. Halliburton was operating as a contractor to BP on the Deepwater Horizon and BP has reportedly alleged that Halliburton destroyed evidence on cement testing and has not provided computer models relating to the cement work. If these allegations are true, they would raise serious and troubling questions. It is imperative that the Congress and the American people are able to get full and complete information and answers about what led to this spill and it is essential for Halliburton to be cooperative and forthcoming about its role in the disaster.

As Ranking Member of the House Natural Resources Committee, I ask that you provide a written response to the following questions:

1. BP alleges that Halliburton destroyed cement testing information “in part because it wanted to eliminate any risk that this evidence would be used against it at trial.” News accounts report that two Halliburton employees testified in depositions that they destroyed notes and samples, according to BP’s court filings. Did Halliburton employees destroy information related to cement testing? If so, why did they destroy such information and who at Halliburton, if anybody, directed them to do so? If this information has not been destroyed, has it been supplied to the Department of the Interior or to Congress? If not, was either the Department or the Congress informed that the information provided by Halliburton was not complete due to the document/data destruction?

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2. BP also alleges that Halliburton "at best, lost the computer modeling outputs" related to the cement work. Does Halliburton possess these computer modeling outputs and were they supplied to investigators with the Department of the Interior or to Congress? If not, was either the Department or the Congress informed that the information provided by Halliburton was not complete due to the document/data destruction?
3. Has Halliburton tampered with or destroyed any other evidence or information relating to any aspect of the Deepwater Horizon disaster that was sought by the Department of the Interior or the Congress?
4. Has Halliburton withheld any other evidence or information relating to any aspect of the Deepwater Horizon disaster that was sought by the Department of the Interior or the Congress?

Thank you for your assistance in responding to this inquiry. I ask that you please respond by December 21, 2011. Should you have any questions, please contact Morgan Gray or Reece Rushing of the House Natural Resources Committee Democratic staff at 202-225-6065.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources