

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Business and Industry Session

| Commenter's Affiliation | Comment |
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| Business & Industry | Energy missing from this discussion. Asked about the energy component of the Task Force mix. Concerned that the energy component will suffer from the Deep Water Horizon event. Hoping that DOE would be a component in the Task Force. |
| Business & Industry | Where does Gulf oil and gas extraction and exploration fit? If this is truly ecosystem restoration, this effort could negatively effect the oil and gas industry. |
| Business & Industry | Single source permitting would improve the speed in which restoration would take place. Concerned that single source permitting would be very difficult to implement. Getting permits processed too slow. |
| Business & Industry | Permitting - companies not all treated the same. Depends upon who you are. Very inconsistent. Some individuals got preferential treatment. There is inconsistency in the permitting process with the Army Corps of Engineers. Very frustrating. |
| Business & Industry | Funding should be an emphasis of the Task Force. Some projects can be very expensive. Funds from the oil spill fines should go to the areas that were affected by the spill. |
| Business & Industry | How is the Task Force addressing economy and health issues form the oil event? |
| Business & Industry | What is the Administration thinking on damages (Deep Water Horizon)? How do they weigh economic vs ecosystem damages and restoration? |



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| Business & Industry | Concerned that we will treat the Mobile River like parts of the (Mobile?) delta. Concerned that we may be looking at 'cookie cutter process.' |
| Business & Industry | Does not know of any zero elevation project in Mobile Bay such as a dock, or bulkhead. Can't afford due to mitigation issues. Permitting takes place, but can't mitigate. Trend not to grant permits at zero elevation because you automatically start with a loss. |
| Business & Industry | How do we resolve these issues (zero elevation)? How do we mitigate? Unclear how these will be resolved. |
| Business & Industry | Concerned that the mitigation process was flawed in the area. Mitigation in the area was not really possible due to the cost. |
| Business & Industry | There are so many conflicting goals by organizations in the region. This is a real issue that needed to be addressed. |
| Business & Industry | The permitting process needs to be addressed: no consistency in place. It was not cost effective because it takes too long in a coastal environment to obtain a permit. Example: Theodore Ship Channel. No wetlands involved, so permit should have been 2 weeks. Weeks later it was finally permitted. Another project took 18 months to get permit. Project manager fired. The coastal permit takes too long. Do we need to create zones in the bay for this? |
| Business & Industry | Would like to see public/private organizations work together in the restoration process. |



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| Business & Industry | Idea that 'once lost, always lost.' The coastal zone area could not be recreated. Mitigation seems to be an issue in the region - mitigating would have to be done in an area not related to the region. |
| Business & Industry | Funds are certainly an issue in this region because mitigation it is very expensive and that it was not necessarily the right thing to do in the region. |
| Business & Industry | The view regionally is that there is an infinite quantity of resources. 'If we don't fill in these wetlands, this project won't work.' Can't recreate the coast away from the coast, but can create wetlands away from the coast. Economy tied to the coast. |
| Business & Industry | True, much of this won't work. Agree with point above. |
| Business & Industry | Don't want to bulk head the whole coast, or outlaw all bulk heading. We need to be sustainable. In this example, bulk heading is not a solution. |
| Business & Industry | Will there be an interagency cooperation here? |
| Business & Industry | Louisiana example-New Orleans' Corps is very efficient, Mobile's not so much. [Multiple conflicting views from the group present on this issue presented in unison.] |
| Business & Industry | We do have a good Corps district. We have good communication. We can get things done, develop plans. |
| Business & Industry | There are degraded areas that can be restored to produce value, use mitigation banking. |



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| Business & Industry | Dredge material management a huge issue. Dredged material is not being used properly, not being considered as an asset but as a liability. Use it in the restoration process. Ability to claim it's environmental benefit in cost:benefit ratio formulas would improve this problem. If we can structurally change this, then the ratio can increase and be beneficial cost wise. |
| Business & Industry | Need to use dredge materials as an asset rather than a liability. |
| Business & Industry | Is there legislation to make this happen? |
| Business & Industry | Transplanting project: moving plants short distance in beneficial use project. Worked wonderfully, cheap. |
| Business & Industry | Mobile Channel dredged with hopper dredge. Disposes deep water. Hopper dredge can't deposit in 10-15 feet of water due to draft issues (>30 feet), therefore lost to beneficial use. |
| Business & Industry | Is the Task Force considering beneficial use issues? |
| Business & Industry | Consider change in language-'Its your resource.' Very little material in Mobile Bay from local sources, coming from Minnesota instead. The material here comes from from far away, therefore not 'our resource.' We are dealing with someone else's problem. |
| Business & Industry | Key Outcome: Better Cross agency interaction in how they address these issues. Organizations do all these studies but never come back to the real problems at hand. Organizations need to work together to really make progress to restore the Gulf Coast region. |



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| Business & Industry | Key Outcome: Everyone needs to work together, not be absorbed in self agency issues. No more studies |
| Business & Industry | Key Outcome: Need more synergism, somebody needs to make sense out of all of this. Can't be hollow words. Need to do this differently, make it meaningful |
| Business & Industry | Public-private partnerships would help |
| Business & Industry | Change public view as to whose resources are these? How do we get the farmer in Iowa to see this is his resource? |
| Business & Industry | Get the public involved in the process. A balance needs to be put in place and find a way to work together. The people of coastal Alabama no longer want to talk about it, they want to take some action. |
| Business & Industry | We've paid millions of dollars in plans. They may not be perfect, but we can't let this stop us from making a difference. |
| Business & Industry | Figure out the science to make the key decisions. If lack of research is holding us back, make it a priority. But let's not study what has already been researched. |
| Business & Industry | Some cases we won't know until we try, regardless of what research has already been done. Need a bolder scale of scientific investigation. Decision making sometimes slows us down. We are in an experiment whether we want it or not. Let's move ahead, see what works and what doesn't. |



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| Business & Industry | Make a plan and move forward. See what unfolds. Don't use Band-Aid approaches. |
| Business & Industry | The planning process has problems - there is a disconnect between organizations. |
| Business & Industry | How do you address the business model for clients? Lots of consulting in the room. How do we address the need to have a long term view of restoration? If we tell the client it will take 18 months, but someone else says "I can do it in 6 months," how do we deal with inconsistency? |
| Business & Industry | Need to 'define the goose' as in the goose with golden egg example. Have we established the values we want? Do we have a opportunity to define what we want out of the Bay and coastal islands? Need to define expressable values and use these in a working plan. |
| Business & Industry | Need to recognize that submerged aquatic vegetatoin (SAV) beds do not have the same value as a bottom land forest. Terms need to be translateable to the public. Need to identify trade offs and what losses will mean. |