

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Academia Session

Commenter's Affiliation	Comment
Business & Industry	Discouraged because of the definition of tribal participation and the fact that the Task Force will include only federally recognized tribes. Why is Lisa Jackson investigating Indian affairs? Hoping that more of the local academic researchers will be involved in the Task Force. There is a need for some sort of organization that deals with all the scientist and universities where data can be pulled; should the Task Force do this?
Academia	The Task Force needs to facilitate a single clearinghouse for scientific research.
Non-governmental Organization	Expressed concern about the orange stains in in the toilet. She wants her drinking water tested. Independent testing of shrimp came up with higher levels of constituents than FDA reported.
Local Government	Needs the Task Force to actually correct issues instead of simply saying, "We will." All of the Task Force work is great, but the issue is policy. Current policies make improvement difficult. He is grateful that the scientists are getting engaged. He thanked the scientists for building confidence in the quality of the seafood from the Gulf.
Non-governmental Organization	Academic researchers need money to conduct research. We are losing scientist due to the lack of funding and pertinent issues will not be considered. What are the best predictors of ecosystem health as viewed by experts? Look at the continued destruction of wetlands. The money that BP was supposed to provide has NOT been provided. Plants are now coming out of their dormant phase and we need to be doing the monitoring now. The fact that the money has not come out is very important.



Academia Session

Commenter's Affiliation	Comment
Academia	People in academia don't know the relevancy of their work to the Task Force. The Task Force needs to ensure that academia knows how beneficial their work is to the implementation of strategies. What decisions will the Task Force inform in terms of the strategy? Most of the questions seem to be directed toward the physical scientists. Most of the academics that are involved in law and sociology are not getting involved. The government needs to cultivate contacts with others in the academic community.
Academia	Agrees with the Task Force integrated approach. The gentleman from FDA presented on the presence PAH and said that samples show a 1,000 below what would be considered to cause health concerns. Scientists need to be clear on research/scientific methods. FDA is going to present data that show no actual levels in the specimen that were collected (no contaminants). There is a disconnect and federal government believes that the General Publics can't take the facts. A more comprehensive approach is needed to address the issue. A series of real meetings are needed to come to agreement on how to move forward.
General Public	The educational system needs to be changed; every child needs to understand the decision-making process. What issues are being addressed? Are we addressing sustainability? Problems need to be discussed through common rationale.
General Public	The definition of tribal participation in the Task Force: in terms of inclusion, the current term will be of great disservice. The Task Force needs to consider all tribes. Health and human safety-the role that humans play in the protection of the ecosystem; human health impacts from the BP oil spill. There needs to an interdisciplinary approach to addressing concerns.



Academia Session

Commenter's Affiliation	Comment
Non-governmental Organization	Cannot have a healthy people without a healthy environment; that's the focus of Mobile Baykeeper.
Non-governmental Organization	Need more funding for scientist to perform their work; comments from Task Force meetings need to be made available to the public. What would best serve the Task Force is some organization that could pool the information from scientists.
Non-governmental Organization	How to detoxify her body from chemicals associated with the oil spill. How are we going to get the oil off the ocean floor, so we can feel safe for our children to swim in the Gulf?
Academia	Wetlands have been lost for various reasons under the auspices of federal agencies. Will the Task Force look at policies that federal agencies are implementing that are causing more destruction to wetlands. ACOE will go on in perpetuity destroying wetlands. We need a cohesive policy for wetland protection among the federal agencies.
Local Government	Where do you we identify restoration? Often times nonstructural approaches to restoration are cheaper and better, but it seems that emphasis is on structural. Can you rate the severity of protection and the value of those places, if restored, thus creating a legacy. The Task Force needs to create this document.
Business & Industry	It's great to see that the federal government is looking at the Gulf as an ecosystem. The process seems counter-productive in asking folks to prioritize goals; better serve the entire process by determining how issues inter-relate.



Academia Session

Commenter's Affiliation	Comment
Academia	There needs to be an integrated process for goals not prioritization. The central city part of NOLA had a public meeting; FEMA asked whether people want to have better schools or have less crime in the neighborhood....we need both!
General Public	The dispersants are killing us.
Academia	Would like to request that the Task Force consults scientists and listen to them. On August 25, 2010, she published an article in the New York Times. She is an independent scientist and is not working with the NRDA process. The NRDA process is for litigation and to determine damages. She works for the people of LA not the Dept. of Justice. She works as a scientist and works hard to vet her ideas from start to finish. In the past, she studied hurricanes and looked at its impact on insects. She got a rapid grant from the National Science Foundation to fund her research after the oil spill. The grant provided funding to gather data. And she received additional funding in four month increments. This is highly unusual to be funded in such small increments as usually we get grants for longer time periods, e.g., 4 years.
General Public	We need to change the education system in the U.S. Everyone is getting too specialized. She is very worried that there will be another spill. She advocated the use of medicine wheels.
General Public	I didn't come here to rehash that wetlands are important.