

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Business and Industry Session

Commenter's Affiliation	Comment
General Public	Economic Development Strategies need to be expanded throughout the fishing and oil and gas industries
General Public	The State of Louisiana should look further into the wetlands' ability to sequester carbon. The group determined that this was more of a General Task force issue.
General Public	The session attendees did not like that the environmental issues had already been pre-determined, and put up on posters. The Session attendees would like a blank slate and determine the issues themselves.
General Public	One of the main environmental stressors is marine trafficking (commercial trafficking). Louisiana has a major problem with the federal navigation channels and does not have the resources to mitigate the problem. Rock needs to be placed along the navigation channels. Significant losses are occurring due to trafficking and erosion. This is a specific issue between the State of Louisiana and the Corps of Engineers. CWPPRA is not contributing resources. Federal money is the only money that is being provided at this time.
General Public	Restoring the Gulf to pre-storm conditions should be the priority. The major issue Louisiana is facing is subsidence. The BP event ignored safe, proven restoration methods, and new unproven methods were used by BP and the Federal Government. Oil and dispersants increased the toxins in the water. The dispersants used to sink or disperse the oil has caused the problems, and the public has been getting sick.

Commenter's Affiliation	Comment
General Public	Also, the Government needs to have more transparency. Between health and public safety there should be no divergence. Letters addressing this issue have been sent to both the Federal and State Governments and have received no response. Task Force Response - The audience for your comments is the NRDA public hearings. The NRDA process is running concurrent with the Gulf Task Force and is not a part of the process of these Restoration Task Force meetings.
General Public	Inland Waterways Trust Fund needs more resources to address subsidence and erosion of the navigation channels.
Business & Industry	There is a serious health issue associated with the oil spill that the Government is ignoring. To date there are 120 dead dolphins, and this needs to be recognized as an unusual mortality event. Carcinogenic dispersants was used, and we have to address what needs to be done about this, literally from the bottom up. How do we get the oil off of the bottom of the Gulf? Also, the carcasses of these dolphins are being left on the beach.
General Public	There is a lack of transparency that is occurring regarding the restoration effort, and a “blame game” of pitting one business against another. The way this was addressed during the Exxon Valdez Oil spill is that a General Publics Advisory Council was established. This council served as a go between and facilitated consensus decision making between the entire business and industry sector. The task force should consider this legal mechanism that can represents all concerns of the business and industry. 80% of the Clean Water Act fines collected from BP should be applied to Louisiana and other hit communities. These monies should be used for restoration and for economic development along the Gulf.
Non-governmental Organization	Not all businesses are being represented at these Task Force meetings. The Task Force needs to create a system and a structure that will be long lasting, and will ensure all industries representation on this Task Force.
Business & Industry	The Task Force needs to include area business councils and increase outreach and marketing prior to the meeting.

Commenter's Affiliation	Comment
General Public	Following a disaster such as this oil spill, the leadership needs to address the following questions: Should we develop this area? Do we adapt from this area? Or do we re-locate from this area?
General Public	The polluter should only provide the resources to correct the problem, and should never be in charge. They should only be involved in recovery. The ACOE needs to restructure their payment system
Business & Industry	The jetties are robbing the coast of the sediments. We need to harvest the useable sand and seriously work on the beneficial use of dredged materials. We need every ounce of sand in the area, and limit destruction.
Non-governmental Organization	What mechanism is being employed to solicit feedback from the other industries? This strategy is being built upon previous strategies that have already been developed. There is already a Master Plan being developed, i.e. Governors Coastal Advisory Commission
Business & Industry	The Oil Pollution Act addresses loss of use. Lost use needs to be closely looked at. Recommend a General Publics Advisory Council as well.
General Public	Private/public partnerships are a great way in which the private sector can partner with the public sector.
General Public	Expressed concern that the oil spill is a major problem and that we need to restore the coast to where we were, and then restore even further
Business & Industry	Louisiana needs to utilize our waterways and our oil and gas industry to bring in new industry to work with the ports. Also stated that the US Coast Guard is responsible for subsidence issue, and that dredging should be deeper.

Committer's Affiliation	Comment
General Public	There are non government organizations in the business and industry field that need to have representation at these meetings and involved in this process. The Task Force should take a look at the construction and restoration process "Post Katrina" and how they worked to make sure more that public private partnerships were established, and how private dollars were brought in to the recovery effort.
Non-governmental Organization	Utilize "at risk youth" to be technicians. Remember those groups who are usually forgotten, and involve them in the restoration and recovery process.
General Public	The timeline to complete this plan may not be adequate. It is too short of a time frame to print your recommendations and put them in the <u>Federal Register</u> and have the 30/60 day process to include all the comments from the people. The timeline for the Task Force does not fit the magnitude of the process.
General Public	Question was asked: Who does the public go to if they have a product that they believe would assist the restoration process or if they are willing to help? Response - Look at those that are doing existing restoration work in your area.