



For Immediate Release

Contact: Barbara Goldsmith
202-628-6818
info@nrdonline.com

Key Government Officials and Others Discuss the Deepwater Horizon Incident and Other Current Policies and Practices Concerning “Damages” to Natural Resources...

Washington, DC – *October 28, 2011* – This past week, nearly 150 representatives from government, industry, academia, law firms, consulting, non-profit and research organizations gathered to hear from some of the best and brightest of the nation’s high level government officials and experts relative to the current state of natural resource damage liability, assessment and restoration practices and policies at Ad-Hoc Industry Natural Resource Damage Group’s 8th Natural Resource Damage (NRD) Symposium on October 25-26, 2011 in Washington, DC.

Former Commandant of the US Coast Guard, Thad Allen, spoke candidly to the Symposium audience on October 26, 2011 about his experience as the National Incident Commander for the Deepwater Horizon Incident, including the difference between and importance of “unity of effort” and “continuity in effort” relative to the response efforts undertaken in the Gulf and how the process would have benefitted by the incorporation of NRD-related considerations in the overall response protocol. In addition, Jeffrey Ball, former Environment Editor of the *Wall Street Journal*, gave participants an inside look on how to responsibly report on environmental incidents and issues, which are not often “black and white” but actually “grey” in nature, given the inherent uncertainty often present in these matters.

Monica Medina, Principal Deputy Undersecretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, US Department of Commerce, discussed some of the “creative and new and different things in the world of NRD

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in order to better serve people of the Gulf and the US” which have arisen as a result of the Deepwater Horizon Incident, including new ways to manage and make accessible online data and other information, as well as a firm commitment to transparency in the overall natural resource damage assessment process.

The Symposium, convened at The George Washington University in cooperation with the Regulatory Studies Center of the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration, featured a two day program with a wide spectrum of discussion topics, ranging from lessons learned from the Deepwater Horizon Incident, to current NRD site assessment and restoration practices, to ecosystem service valuation issues, to how other countries are addressing biodiversity and environmental liability and much more. A common theme among speakers and audience participants alike was an emphasis on restoration of natural resource services “injured” as the result of a release of hazardous waste or oil and, when possible, encourage cooperative efforts between government and responsible parties.

As a result of the program – “Coming of Age: Time to Set Expectations for Performance, Professional Standards” – the Group, in collaboration with Symposium participants, will work to create a collective "best practices manual" and related tools that could be used by diverse stakeholder groups to advance natural resource restoration at sites from coast to coast.

The Ad-Hoc Industry Natural Resource Damage Group, comprised of multinational industrial companies, is the only group of its kind exclusively focused on environmental liability, natural resource damages and related issues. Since its founding in 1988, the Group has helped many hundreds of companies manage, optimize and resolve these matters. With active programs in the US and Europe, the Group provides unparalleled support and resources to its members; partners with a diverse set of entities and individuals in both public and private sectors; and works to foster practice exchange and advance the state-of-the art.

For full information about the 2011 NRD Symposium, visit www.NRDOnline.com/symposium.

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