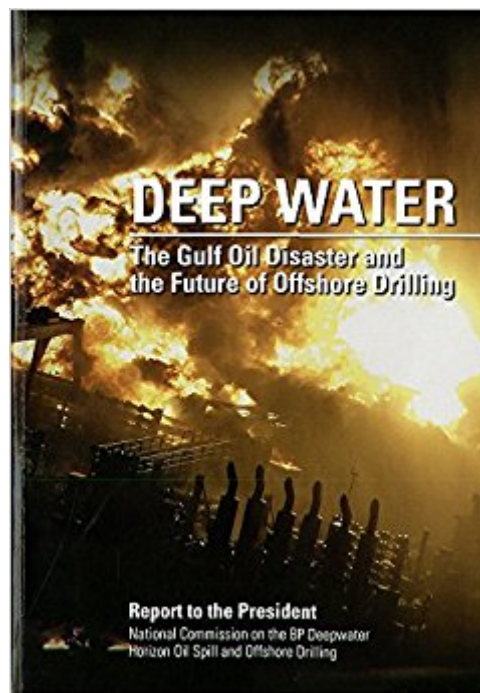




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# Deep Water: The Gulf Oil Disaster And The Future Of Offshore Drilling: Report To The President, January 2011



## Synopsis

On April 20, 2010, the Macondo well blew out, costing the lives of 11 men, and beginning a catastrophe that sank the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig and spilled nearly 5 million barrels of crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico. The spill disrupted an entire region's economy, damaged fisheries and critical habitats, and brought vividly to light the risks of deepwater drilling for oil and gas—the latest frontier in the national energy supply. Soon after, President Barack Obama appointed a seven-member Commission to investigate the disaster, analyze its causes and effects, and recommend the actions necessary to minimize such risks in the future. The Commission's report offers the American public and policymakers alike the fullest account available of what happened in the Gulf and why, and proposes actions—changes in company behavior, reform of government oversight, and investments in research and technology—required as industry moves forward to meet the nation's energy needs.

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## Customer Reviews

“What the commission has done is put together the most comprehensive narrative of what happened, both before and after the April 20 event. The commission has employed excellent investigators and has presented its findings in a clear, readable, insightful tale.” —Joel Achenbach, Achenblog, Washington Post, January 6, 2011  
From today's (January 7, 2011) NYT editorial: “The document released Wednesday by the presidential commission investigating last spring's oil blowout in the Gulf of Mexico is a riveting and chilling indictment of systemic

failuresâ • throughout the oil business and of the federal agencies that allowed themselves to be captured by the people they were supposed to regulate.â •<http://www.kansascity.com/2011/02/23/2676379/commentary-bps-leftover-spill.html>#The Kansas City StarÂ Â Â --- Posted February 23, 2011, 10:41 amCommentary: BP's leftover spill oil must be cleaned up now by The Bradenton Herald

On April 20, 2010, the Macondo oil well blew out, costing the lives of 11 men, and beginning a catastrophe that sank the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig and spilled over 4 million barrels of crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico. The spill disrupted an entire region's economy, damaged fisheries and crucial habitats, and brought vividly to light the risks of deepwater drilling for oil and gas, the latest frontier in the national energy supply. Soon after, President Barack Obama appointed a seven-member commission to investigate the disaster, analyze its causes and effects, and recommend the actions necessary to minimize such risks in the future. The Commission's report offers the American public and policymakers alike the fullest account available of what happened in the Gulf and why, and proposes actions--changes in company behavior, reform of government oversight, and investments in research and technology--required as industry moves forward to meet the nation's energy needs. Complementary reports, staff background papers, hearing records, and other materials produced by the Commission are available at [www.oilspillcommision.gov](http://www.oilspillcommision.gov)

Required for an offshore class I'm taking. Interesting read. Very insightful and keeps attention better than a normal text book.

Wow. Just wow. It's hard to believe that in today's oilfield, companies can be so reckless with concerns for safety. The commission leaves no stone un-turned, and explains the painfully obvious errors made by BP, Halliburton, and TransOcean in full detail. As usual, the mainstream media didn't accurately explain the root causes of the disaster, but this book sure does. After reading, attempting to understand how BP is allowed to continue operations in the U.S. is beyond me. The commission did an excellent job (in my opinion) of investigating the incident, reporting on it, and recommending corrective actions on behalf of companies and government regulatory agencies.

Every scientist, engineer, and concerned citizen should read this clearly written and engaging report. Unfortunately, the binding of this tradeback book is defective - the pages become unbound when the book is opened. I returned my first copy only to receive a replacement with the identical

problem. Deep Water is available on-line for free if you don't want to spend \$39.00 for a potentially unusable hard copy. Also read the Chief Counsel's Report and BP's Internal Report, which are also available on-line.

This book was substituted without warning or notice for my Kindle order of The Man in the Gray Flannel suit. Literally, it is a bait-and-switch. Check it out if you are curious - search for The Man in the Gray Flannel suit (book, not movie), and then try to select Kindle edition - you get switched to this Deep Water report. It is a clear link error, and there is no way to report it to . So, the report I don't want is getting the worst review I can give it.Â The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit

This report is the outcome of an intense six-month bipartisan effort to determine the disaster's causes and improve our ability to respond to spills. Its authors concluded that the well's loss could have been prevented, its blowout can be traced to a systematic series of mistakes made by BP and its contractors, necessitates reform of regulatory oversight of deep-water oil production, and requires that industry and government develop improved means of spill cleanup - unchanged even 20 years after the Exxon Valdez. Stated alternatively, it is inappropriate to single out any single misstep as the cause of the Deepwater explosion, and doing so would encourage unjustified complacency going forward. The report is divided into three sections: Chapters 1-3 describe the events of 4/20/2010, and the events leading up to in the preceding decades - especially how expansion of deepwater drilling in the Gulf was not met by capable regulatory oversight. Chapters 4-7 highlight issues believed must guide policy in engineering, spill response, and the impacts of the spill. Finally, chapters 8-10 present the Commission's recommendations for business practice reform, regulatory oversight, and broader policy concerns.

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