

# Open Letter to CTEH Employees, Clients and Members of the Public

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**June 30, 2010**

Yesterday we obtained a copy of a June 25, 2010 letter sent to BP by Reps. Lois Capps (D-Calif.) and Peter Welch (D-Vt.) questioning our company's professional standards and our independence in providing critical public health information in the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill response. In this letter, they ask that BP "remove CTEH from their role as primary monitor of health issues." We have not been contacted by either of these Representatives or their staff. The only source of information they cite to support this demand is an inaccurate, misleading and unsubstantiated on-line report circulated on the internet.

They demand that BP "release the methodology used and all data compiled by CTEH." In addition, they suggest that BP should hire an "independent" organization to perform this work.

It is important for our employees, clients, and the public to be made aware of the following facts:

1. **Our data are, in fact, being released to both the federal government for independent verification and analysis as well as to the public.** When received from the laboratory, worker exposure data we collect are reviewed by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). The validated laboratory community data we collect are provided to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on a daily basis for inclusion into their public SCRIBE database. Also on a daily basis, all of the real-time community air monitoring results we collect along the Gulf Coast are published to the EPA SCRIBE database and summarized for Unified Command (Unified Command is the umbrella organization responding to this incident and includes the U.S. Coast Guard, departments of health and environmental agencies from the impacted states, the EPA, OSHA, Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Homeland Security, the Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Department of the Interior, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and others.) Unified Command releases these summaries each day to agencies and other organizations throughout the Gulf Coast region. At the request of CTEH, air sampling specialists from the EPA are "shadowing" our field community monitoring teams and observing our sample collection and data collection methods. Our worker exposure activities have been reviewed by OSHA and NIOSH.
2. **Our methodology has been approved by Unified Command and made available to the public.** CTEH worker and community air monitoring is performed according to work plans that were developed in cooperation with and approved by the Unified Command.
3. **Air monitoring is being performed by multiple organizations, including OSHA, NIOSH, EPA, and other private contractors.** CTEH is not the "primary monitor of health issues" as referenced in the Representatives' letter. CTEH is part of a large public-private team that has been tasked with providing critical exposure monitoring data to the many public organizations involved in this incident. We have reviewed, in detail, our methods, data and results of worker

exposure monitoring with OSHA and NIOSH. The data we have collected are consistent with the results of testing performed by these government organizations.

CTEH has always operated using the highest scientific standards. We foster openness, honesty, and transparency in reporting scientific data and take great pride in being a trustworthy company that produces dependable scientific testing and results that are relevant to the public, governmental agencies, and the private sector. Our reputation and technical excellence has been recognized nationally, as demonstrated by repeated requests for members of our professional staff to provide training, policy review, and scientific/technical advice to multiple State and Federal organizations and to scientific organizations and journals.

We are proud of our role in the unified response to this incident. Our data and our methods are being shared with the public and the agencies charged with overseeing public health efforts in this incident. Our principles of transparency and technical excellence will not be compromised as we provide vitally important public health information during these difficult times.

Sincerely,

Owners of CTEH