

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI



JIM HOOD ATTORNEY GENERAL

Attorney General Files Suit Against BP and others for Damages
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jackson, MS - Attorney General Jim Hood has filed suits in both state and federal courts seeking to recover damages caused by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Disaster of 2010.

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Attorney General Jim Hood stated, "I have worked very hard to get BP to discuss a reasonable settlement. BP refused to negotiate, forcing the state to take this action. BP would not even agree to waive the statute of limitations while we negotiated, which could have prevented the State from having to file suit and saved both them and the taxpayers a lot of money paying lawyers and fighting in the courts."

The Deepwater Horizon Oil Disaster of April 20, 2010 killed 11 workers and led to an unprecedented oil spill that damaged, depleted and destroyed marine, estuarine and coastal environments, and caused the State to sustain losses of tax revenue, economic loss, and other damages, including, damage to its natural resources.

The State filed a suit in the Circuit Court in Harrison County today raising state law claims and seeking recovery of the state statutory penalties, such as the Coastal Wetlands Protection Act, and damages under Mississippi state law. The state filed separate suit in federal court in the Southern District of Mississippi, Gulfport Division, which seeks other damages available under federal law.

The State also seeks to recover punitive damages, attorneys' fees, costs of litigation, as well as declaratory and injunctive relief.

Attorney General Hood concluded, "I am sure BP and the other defendants will seek to delay and deny the State our day in court by seeking to remove our state law suit to federal court. It is my hope that the Federal District Court in the Southern District of Mississippi will remand the case to state court within 30 days of the defendants' filing for removal, so that the state can proceed expeditiously in state court. While claims filed by other states have languished in federal court, I do not want to see that happen to us. States are separate sovereigns entitled to litigate their state law claims in state courts."

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