

## Department of Energy Activities in Response to the Deepwater BP Oil Spill

At the request of the President, Secretary Chu and Secretary Salazar traveled to Houston and participated in meetings today with DOE and national lab staff, industry officials and other engineers and scientists involved in finding solutions to cap the flow of oil and contain the spill.

Secretary Chu assembled a group of top scientific experts from inside and outside of government to join in today's discussions in Houston about possible solutions. This team includes:

- Dr. Tom Hunter, Director of the Department of Energy's Sandia National Labs
- Dr. George A. Cooper, an expert in materials science and retired professor from UC Berkeley
- Richard Lawrence Garwin, a physicist and IBM Fellow Emeritus
- Dr. Jonathan I. Katz, professor of physics at Washington University
- Dr. Alexander H. Slocum, professor of mechanical engineering at MIT

Over the past week and a half, Department of Energy National Laboratories' staff have employed the labs' high powered supercomputers to assist with imaging and sampling of the seafloor; measuring pressures in the blowout preventer stack; and analysis of the riser structure and fluid flow.

Support provided to BP by DOE lab teams includes:

- Contributing ideas and strategies for pressure and flow measurements in the riser and BOP.
- Assisting in interpreting acoustical measurements to determine the blowout preventer ram status and riser integrity.
- Providing information using gamma radiography to get a better picture of the current state of the blowout preventer and riser.
- Offering technical assistance, together with university scientists, in understanding hydrate formation.
- Performing modeling to understand conditions in the riser just above the blowout preventer, and elsewhere in the structure.
- Offering input and technical advice to develop an option to introduce material into the blowout preventer to stem the flow.

In addition, the Department is offering the following support to the National Response Team:

- DOE's Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability is monitoring the impact of the spill on power generation facilities and other energy infrastructure in the Gulf region.
- DOE National Labs have activated their modeling and simulation capabilities to increase the understanding of the potential infrastructure impacts of the spill and assess the results of in-situ burn of oil on the water surface.