



*U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Southern District of Mississippi*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 21, 2011**

Jackson, Miss - Dennis L. Moore, 39, of Jackson, pled guilty in federal court today to mail fraud relating to a scheme to defraud British Petroleum and the Gulf Coast Claims Facility of \$90,000, U.S. Attorney John M. Dowdy, Jr. announced. Moore submitted false documents claiming to have suffered financial loss to a fictitious business as a result of the Deepwater Horizon disaster. Moore will be sentenced by U.S. District Judge Daniel P. Jordan on April 13, 2011, and faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

This case is a result of coordination between the Criminal Division's Fraud Section, the U.S. Attorneys' Offices, and the National Center for Disaster Fraud (NCDF). The Criminal Division's Fraud Section, U.S. Attorney's Offices, and law enforcement agencies are working in coordination to ensure expeditious handling of oil spill-related fraud cases. The NCDF provides a nationwide process for receiving, screening, de-conflicting, and referring cases of disaster fraud, including fraud stemming from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

In response to a significant amount of fraud associated with federal disaster relief programs that went into effect following Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma, a Joint Command Center was established in Baton Rouge in 2005. The command center, now known as the NCDF, has received and screened more than 41,000 complaints of disaster fraud and referred nearly 26,000 of those to law enforcement for investigation. The NCDF – based on its extensive expertise and established infrastructure – has helped victims of fraud related to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Wilma, Ike and Gustav, as well as those affected by severe storms in more than 20 different states, earthquakes, tsunamis and wildfires.

Members of the public can report fraud involving the Deepwater Horizon oil spill through the National Center for Disaster Fraud (NCDF) Disaster Fraud Hotline at 877-NCDF-GCF (623-3423), the Disaster Fraud Fax at 225-334-4707 or the Disaster Fraud e-mail at disaster@leo.gov. Individuals can also report criminal activity to the FBI at 1-800-CALL-FBI.

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