

# DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL

# CLAIMS PROCESS FACT SHEET

## FOR INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES

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If you have been affected by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, you may be eligible for funds to help cover your losses. The Gulf Coast Claims Facility (GCCF) has set up a claims process and has begun to compensate individuals and businesses for removal and cleanup costs, property damages, and loss of profits and income. Additionally, the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, managed by the U.S. Coast Guard's National Pollution Funds Center, is available to pay for qualified costs and damages. **If you have been affected by the oil spill you must first seek reimbursement through the GCCF's claims process before seeking reimbursement through the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund.**

### GCCF Claims Process:

<b>Who</b>	Both private <b>individuals</b> and <b>businesses</b> may file claims.
<b>What</b>	You may be eligible for compensation for: removal and cleanup costs; property damage, and loss of profits and income.
<b>How</b>	Visit GCCF website at: <a href="http://www.GulfCoastClaimsFacility.com">www.GulfCoastClaimsFacility.com</a> to file a claim online; Scan your claim to the GCCF at <a href="mailto:info@gccf-claims.com">info@gccf-claims.com</a> ; Mail to GCCF, P.O. Box 9658, Dublin, OH 43017-4958; or Call the GCCF Claims Line at <b>1-800-916-4893</b> . The line is toll-free and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
<b>Questions?</b>	If you have questions about submitting a claim, you may visit the GCCF website, <u>Call the GCCF Claims line OR visit one of 36 GCCF claims offices</u> ; location addresses, can be found at: <a href="http://www.GulfCoastClaimsFacility.com">www.GulfCoastClaimsFacility.com</a>
<b>Next</b>	Claims for response & removal costs are handled by Unified Command. Other claims will be assigned to a Claims Representative who will contact you to ask for additional information regarding your claim.
<b>Claim Denial</b>	If your claim with BP or GCCF is denied or not settled within 90 days of submission, you may wish to contact the U.S. Coast Guard's National Pollution Funds Center (see below).

### U.S. Coast Guard Claims Process:

<b>First</b>	You must first file a claim with GCCF.
<b>Who</b>	Both private individuals and businesses <b>who have filed claims with GCCF that have been denied OR not settled within 90 days</b> may file claims.
<b>How</b>	Claims must be submitted to the NPFC <b>in writing</b> to:  <b>US COAST GUARD STOP 7100 (ca)</b> <b>4200 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 1000</b> <b>Arlington, Virginia 20598-7100</b>
<b>Questions?</b>	For more information on the U.S. Coast Guard's claims process, and what information to provide with your claim, please call the claims support number at <b>1-800-280-7118</b> or visit <a href="http://www.uscg.mil/npfc/claims">www.uscg.mil/npfc/claims</a> .

# **Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill**

## **Claims Information for Individuals and Businesses**

### **BACKGROUND**

The Federal government has designated BP as one of the Responsible Parties (RP) for the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, under the Oil Pollution Act (OPA) of 1990. Under OPA, the RP is liable for costs associated with the containment or cleanup of the spill, property damage, loss of government revenue, loss of profits or earning capacity, loss of subsistence use of natural resources, increased public services costs, and damages to natural resources resulting from the spill.

BP has accepted the designation, has established a claims process, and has been working to address clean up requirements and claims. In the event that BP denies or fails to settle claims within 90 days of presentment, the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF), which is administered by the U.S. Coast Guard's National Pollution Funds Center (NPFC), may be available for compensation for certain removal costs and other damages.

This document provides guidance on the funding sources and reimbursement processes available to individuals and businesses that have or will incur costs associated with the Deepwater Horizon spill. Effective August 23, 2010, the **Gulf Coast Claims Facility (GCCF)** under the administration of Mr. Kenneth Feinberg was established to address individual and business claims. BP has retained responsibility for compensation of OPA damages to tribal, state and local governments.

### **\$20B CLAIMS FUND**

BP has agreed to contribute \$20 billion over a four-year period at a rate of \$5 billion per year, including \$5 billion within 2010. The amount of the fund represents neither a floor nor a ceiling. The fund will be used to pay individual, business, and non-government organization (NGO) claims adjudicated by the Gulf Coast Claims Facility under the administration of Mr. Feinberg, as well as response costs paid by BP to state and local government entities and tribes, federal and non-federal natural resource trustees, and claims arising out of certain oil-spill-related litigation.

### **GCCF CLAIMS PROCESS**

Individuals and businesses may obtain and submit a Claim Form and supporting documentation in any one of the following ways:

1. Through the Website at [www.GulfCoastClaimsFacility.com](http://www.GulfCoastClaimsFacility.com)
2. Visit one of the GCCF Claims Site Offices. You may obtain a list of the Claims Site Offices near you by visiting [www.GulfCoastClaimsFacility.com](http://www.GulfCoastClaimsFacility.com).
3. Call the Toll Free helpline at **1-800-916-4893**. The line is toll-free and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
4. Email questions or submit claim forms to [info@gccf-claims.com](mailto:info@gccf-claims.com).
5. Fax Claims forms to **1-866-682-1772**
6. By Overnight, Certified or Registered Mail to:  
Gulf Coast Claims Facility  
Kenneth R. Feinberg, Administrator  
5151 Blazer Pkwy, Suite A  
Dublin, OH 43017

7. By Regular Mail to:

Gulf Coast Claims Facility  
Kenneth R. Feinberg, Administrator  
P.O. Box 9658  
Dublin, OH 43017-4958

The three categories below are intended to provide guidance to individuals and businesses regarding how claims will be considered. The Guidelines are intended to be illustrative, not inclusive of all costs in each category.

1. Response and Removal Costs

- Should an individual or business intend to undertake or anticipate undertaking future response or removal actions, the GCCF urges an individual or business to first to coordinate its efforts with Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) and Unified Command by contacting the Operations Section Chief or Deputy Incident Commander of the Unified Area Command. It is recommended that individuals and businesses coordinate response and cleanup efforts with state and local government entities that are coordinating directly with the FOSC.
- Response and Removal Costs to be considered for reimbursement are those costs incurred to prevent, minimize, or mitigate impact to natural resources within its jurisdiction from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, including both preventative and clean-up measures.
- If an individual or business has to date incurred Response and Removal Costs due to actions that (1) have not yet been reimbursed by the GCCF, and (2) were performed in coordination with the FOSC or with the GCCF, such costs should be submitted to the GCCF Claims process. Individuals and businesses should include documentation indicating that the Response and Removal Costs were coordinated with the FOSC or the GCCF.
- If an individual or business has to date incurred Response and Removal Costs due to actions that were **not** coordinated with the FOSC or the GCCF, then the individual or business should submit claims to the GCCF's Claims Process and include an explanation for why the costs were necessary for the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill response or removal and were consistent with the approved Area Contingency Plan or other approved efforts already planned, performed, or underway by or at the direction of the Unified Command.

2. Loss of Profits and Earning Capacity

- Loss of Profits and Earning Capacity claims to be considered for reimbursement include claims for revenue lost from donations, sales, royalties, rents, fees, and net profit shares that an individual or business was unable to collect, and unable to mitigate, as a direct result of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.

3. Property Damage

- Damages for injury to, or economic losses resulting from, destruction of owned or leased real or personal property, including the cost of restoring the property.

4. Physical Injury or Death

- Injury to the body proximately caused by the Spill or the explosion and fire associated with the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, or by the cleanup of the Spill.

Costs BP Are Likely to View as Non-Reimbursable

- Non-reimbursable costs may include those costs that were, in fact, not incurred as a direct result of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill or that were not reasonably necessary to respond to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.

In the event that the GCCF denies or fails to settle claims within 90 days of presentment under OPA, the OSLTF which is administered by the NPFC, is available for compensation for certain removal costs and other damages.

**NATIONAL POLLUTION FUNDS CENTER - CLAIMS PROCESS:**

- Claims for OPA removal costs and damages that have been denied or not settled by the Responsible Party after 90 days may be presented to the NPFC for consideration against the OSLTF. Keep in mind that under OPA a claim must be a demand for a sum certain (dollar amount) so, before the 90 day timeframe can start, an individual or business must clearly articulate and present to the RP a dollar amount. Interim claims are permitted.

To submit a claim to the NPFC:

- Submit your claim, in writing. The Optional OSLTF Claim form **CG NPFC-CA1** may be used or a freeform document submitting the same information. Identify the type of damage you are claiming and specify a sum certain.
- Document your costs and damages from the spill. Regulations defining what types of documentation required for the various types of claims are found in 33 CFR § 136. A host of information regarding claims can be found on the NPFC website at [www.uscg.mil/npfc/claims](http://www.uscg.mil/npfc/claims).
- Forward your claims package to the National Pollution Funds Center, the Coast Guard office responsible for evaluating and approving OPA claims, at the following address:

**US COAST GUARD STOP 7100 (ca)  
4200 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 1000  
Arlington, Virginia 20598-7100**