

BP Has Stopped the Oil From Flowing ... But Is It Only Temporary?

Video analysis

By [Washington's Blog](#)

Global Research, July 16, 2010

[Washington's Blog](#) 15 July 2010

Theme: [Environment](#)

In-depth Report: [THE BP OIL SLICK](#)

BP has succeeded in capping the well and stopping oil from flowing into the Gulf of Mexico ... at least temporarily.

The official Deepwater Horizon Response [Twitter feed](#) noted:

NO OIL FLOWING INTO THE GULF

This can be confirmed by looking at the [underwater video cams](#).

As of this writing, Skandi ROV 2's cam is showing the cap (no oil), and Skandi ROV 1's cam is showing sonar of the seafloor:

[BP live feed from Skandi ROV 1](#)

[BP live feed from Skandi ROV 2](#)

However, numerous industry experts have [warned](#) that there is no upside to temporarily capping the well as part of the well integrity test, and that it might actually cause the well to blow out.

Indeed, Don Van Nieuwenhuise – director of geosciences programs at the University of Houston – told CNN today:

We don't know if there are significant leaks deep in the well.

There's a couple of weak points at 9,000 feet, and one at 17,000 feet, that they might be particularly interested in looking and watching in the seismic.

[With seismic testing, you can look beneath the seafloor. Sonar only tests at the seafloor itself].

Admiral Thad Allen previously [said](#) that the test will be considered a success if pressure in the well stays at 8,000 psi or higher for 48 hours. So we won't know for a couple of days

whether the test has succeeded.

As AP correctly [notes](#):

Now begins a waiting period to see if the cap can hold the oil without blowing a new leak in the well. Engineers will monitor pressure readings incrementally for up to 48 hours before reopening the cap while they decide what to do.

Interestingly, as [CNN's Situation Room](#) noted a couple of minutes ago, the cap might soon be re-opened, and closed again only during hurricanes:

Admiral Thad Allen releasing a statement to us just a short while ago...

He cautions "This isn't over"...

Very interesting here. **He talks about the cap as a temporary measure to be used for hurricanes...**

"It remains **likely that we will return to the containment process...** until the relief well is completed"

So it **looks like the plan is to go back to releasing the oil** and letting it pump up to the surface.

So is the well integrity test a meaningless [PR stunt](#), which is delaying completion of the relief wells, and failing to bring us any closer to permanently killing the oil gusher?

Or is it a valuable tool to see if the well can be protected from further damage during a hurricane?

Only time will tell ...

Hat tip [FloridaOilSpillLaw](#).

The original source of this article is [Washington's Blog](#)

Copyright © [Washington's Blog](#), [Washington's Blog](#), 2010

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Washington's Blog](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in

print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca