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News Release

Secretary Salazar's Statement Regarding the Moratorium on Deepwater Drilling

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Contact: Kendra Barkoff, DOI (202) 208-6416

WASHINGTON, DC – Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar issued the following statement regarding a decision today in U.S. District Court regarding the deepwater drilling moratorium:

“The decision to impose a moratorium on deepwater drilling was and is the right decision. The moratorium is needed to protect the communities and the environment of the Gulf Coast, and DOJ is therefore appealing today’s court ruling.

“We see clear evidence every day, as oil spills from BP’s well, of the need for a pause on deepwater drilling. That evidence mounts as BP continues to be unable to stop its blowout, notwithstanding the huge efforts and help from the federal scientific team and most major oil companies operating in the Gulf of Mexico. The evidence also continues to mount that industry needs to raise the bar on blowout prevention, containment, and response planning before deepwater drilling should continue.

“Based on this ever-growing evidence, I will issue a new order in the coming days that eliminates any doubt that a moratorium is needed, appropriate, and within our authorities.”

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**EXHIBIT
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