



U. S. Department of Justice

Civil Division

Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

JUL 20 2010

Mr. Stephen M. Kohn
Executive Director
National Whistleblowers Center
3238 P Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20007

Dear Mr. Kohn:

Thank you for your letter to the Attorney General regarding the applicability of the False Claims Act to the Deepwater Horizon disaster. Your letter was forwarded to me for response.

I can assure you that the Department of Justice is dedicated to recovering any losses it sustains as a result of the oil spill, and is considering all avenues for redress against the potentially responsible parties. The Department appreciates the important contributions of relators in assisting the United States to recover taxpayer funds under the False Claims Act's *qui tam* provisions. This public-private partnership has proved a successful tool for the recovery of public funds and for rewarding relators who bring allegations of fraud to the government. Indeed, since January 2009, more than \$3.6 billion was obtained under the Act's *qui tam* provisions, and relators were awarded more than \$497 million for their efforts in helping the government pursue these recoveries.

We hope this information is helpful and thank you for your inquiry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony West", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Tony West
Assistant Attorney General

cc: Mr. Anthony C. Munter, National Whistleblowers Center
Mr. Richard R. Renner, National Whistleblowers Center
Ms. Lindsey M. Williams, National Whistleblowers Center