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July 13, 2010

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Vice-Presidents/Vice-Chancellors for Research

FROM: Kerry Davidson, Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs
Michael Khonsari, LA EPSCoR Project Director

RE: LA EPSCoR/Board of Regents Gulf Oil Spill Research Conference

Michael Khonsari has received verbal notification that NSF will fund the proposed Gulf Oil Spill Research Conference. BP has not indicated definitively if it will provide supplementary funding. Under these circumstances we are beginning to work on conference planning. The proposal to be funded by NSF contains several general commitments:

- Hosting of a scientific research conference in New Orleans, LA, during October-November 2010
- Participation of all three Gulf Coast EPSCoR states – Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama – in conference planning and activities
- Appointment of a Steering Committee comprised of selected Vice-Presidents/Vice-Chancellors for Research or their designees, Board of Regents staff, and representatives from Mississippi and Alabama, to determine conference topics, agenda, invited speakers, panel members, and location/date
- Leveraging of prior conferences, symposia, forums, and other oil spill-related events
- Development of published proceedings, to be compiled from session summaries provided by conference speakers and panel members

The proposal to NSF also made specific commitments regarding research outcomes of the conference: (1) key oil spill research ideas will be addressed; (2)

key researchers both regionally and nationally will be engaged; and (3) proceedings of the conference will address the research status of key ideas identified. The attached matrix is designed to gather useful information regarding these matters for consideration by the Steering Committee. **We therefore ask that you complete the matrix for your campus and email it to Carrie Robison (carrie.roider@la.gov) by close of business on Monday, July 19.** The responses, along with a staff summary, will be made available to members of the Steering Committee.

We anticipate that the Committee will consider responses to the matrix and other matters during the week of July 26. We welcome any suggestions as to how the Committee can most effectively communicate and conduct its business.

Thank you for your support of the conference concept. We look forward to working with you in the coming months as the conference develops.

The Status of Scientific Research in Relation to the Gulf Oil Spill: A BoR/LA EPSCoR Conference
Preliminary Matrix of Research Questions

Please complete the following matrix, including as many research questions/topics as appropriate. For each research question, provide the names of related researchers on your campus and external experts who could possibly serve as panel members or speakers, as well as the names of businesses and industries and federal agencies funding or deploying research in the area.

[illegible]