



LUTZ FOR CONGRESS 2010

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NEWS RELEASE

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Use “Full-Containment” to Stop the Oil Catastrophe, says Ray Lutz, Engineer and Candidate for U.S. Congress

“Obama, call on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to design and deploy a full-containment structure immediately,” says Lutz.

The “Full Containment” proposal submitted to DHS uses a set of stackable 100-ton frames that completely surround and enclose the wellhead riser.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY (June 23, 2010) – Ray Lutz, who holds a Master's of Science degree in engineering, proposed a technical solution to the Deepwater Horizon oil well catastrophe called “Full Containment” which uses stackable open frames that will surround the wellhead riser topped by a lid to stop the release of oil into the ocean.

A rough outline of the idea was submitted to the Department of Homeland Security in the form of a three-page white paper on June 18th.

“I am sick of listening to people talk around the problem, point fingers, and start lawsuits while not making serious proposals to solve it,” Lutz said. “The reality is that the 'Containment Domes' tried by BP did not attempt to fully contain the leak but were nothing more than large suction nozzles. And at the present time, the second suction tophat has been removed and the wellhead riser pipe is gushing oil full-blast. We need a robust structure that will fully contain the wellhead riser and stop the oil. This solution can be implemented in a matter of weeks and can be deployed in tandem with other strategies to stop the gusher, such as pumping oil directly from the wellhead and drilling a relief wells.

“I hereby call on President Obama to direct the Army Corps of Engineers to refine and implement the “Full Containment” proposal and stop waiting for BP to try more failing tactics. Gulf coast states should demand action and push for implementation of this proposal on an emergency basis,” Lutz said.

Lutz proposes a set of open frames, each weighing 50 to 100 tons, that will completely surround and enclose the wellhead riser. After placing stabilizing “foundation” frames into the mud on the sea floor, each subsequent frame is lowered to fit into and is secured to the one below it. The top of the structure

is left open until the lower structure is in place. Once the structure is largely in place, concrete is pumped into the lower frames to seal the bottom so oil and gas will not leak through the muddy sea floor. Finally, a lid is secured over the top while still allowing relief pumping to continue. The entire 20ft square structure extends at least 20 ft into the mud and 50ft above the sea floor.

Lutz said his suggestion might use conventional steel and concrete construction techniques already well understood and used in buildings and bridges. The 20 ft x 20 ft x 4 ft frames are constructed of four beams that can be fabricated on land, shipped to the vicinity of the wellhead, assembled around the existing relief piping, and then lowered to the bottom using a crane and remotely operated vehicles (ROVs).

“We are all quite embarrassed to see BP try to solve the discharge of oil with relatively tiny containment domes that were doomed to fail, a 'top-kill' scenario that was only a pipe-dream, relief pumping through a connector that leaks like a sieve or has been removed, and now they say they have the ultimate solution, drilling relief wells to intercept the well far down in the rock below, a solution that is only a hope and a prayer, and if successful, will still take a number of months to complete. The reality is that there is no guarantee the relief wells will work, and they may gush out of control just like the first one.

“A much larger containment structure, based on the concept I have submitted to the Department of Homeland Security, is a solution that is inexpensive and can be deployed in tandem with other strategies. Full-Containment must be tried.”

Lutz said. “I'm not pretending that this is a finished engineering solution, but it is a solution that should be refined by experts and an attempt made – immediately. Full-Containment is one option that has not been attempted. The fact that this simple concept has not been tried makes one believe that BP is more interested in keeping their wellhead intact and collecting the oil, than in stopping the discharge.”

Details of the proposal can be found on the Citizens' Oversight Projects website, at <http://www.copswiki.org/Common/M992>

Ray Lutz is a candidate for the U.S. Congress, CA-52. His campaign website address is <http://www.VoteRayLutz.com>. The 52nd District includes much of East San Diego County. Ray Lutz is well known for his work with the community of Potrero to help stop Blackwater from establishing an 824-acre mercenary training facility in that community.

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