

## Closing Remarks: James Watson, Director, BSEE

I have a couple of minutes to wrap this up. First of All I want to thank the staff of BSEE. Starting with Sharon Buffington she had a wonderful team, Debbie O'Brian, Margaret Thomas, Tim Sefleck, Dave Smith and his press team and all the rest of the folks from the Department of Interior who helped with this.

This was a fairly major event for us and we hope you all got something out of it. We heard some terrific expert commentary that is going to take me personally a little bit of time to go back through. We recorded it all and we have a lot of staff that has been taking notes.

I had some anecdotal comments that I wanted to mention before we all depart which will leave us with some things to think about that I think are highlights. Roger McCarthy, -- I have to say his talk really hit hard. We heard how important it is to not forget the lessons of history and realize that the BOP is a device that can't just work in benign conditions; it is a device that has to work in the most horrible conditions and somehow we have to insure ourselves that every one of those BOPs will live up to that criteria.

I also want to call out Chris Smith. I think it's very important to note that He reminded us up front of the 11 crewmen on the Deepwater Horizon who lost their lives and it was perhaps partially attributable to the BOP they were relying on that day. David Hayes gave us four things that he would like. He wanted the BOP to cut whatever was in the way and then seal the well. He wanted appropriate maintenance for the device and wanted sensors for monitoring and to know it's always ready, and he wanted people to be properly trained and ready to go in an emergency. I think we covered all those bases and I want to thank you for that.

I'm going to be again spending some time with my staff and picking out what did you really tell us and how can we integrate that into our program going forward? In panel 2 lead by Richard Sears the question was what design criteria is needed? We heard there is a need for dynamic testing, certification of the BOP designs under the toughest of operating conditions. There should be fail-safe devices in these devices. We have humans in the system, but what if they do not do what they have to do at the right time?

Industry is working on significant improvements in the technical standards. We heard that from the folks working on the API 53 standard. We are looking forward to that coming out. I think we are expecting that there will be improvements that will include

perhaps double blind shears and centering devices so that drill pipes that is in compression are going to be able to be cut every single time.

Panel 3 Harish Patel panel asked what are the reliability requirements that are available. This would include maintenance, monitoring, and all the things that you need to do to go back to my watchwords all the time. We heard that we need well-trained personnel, which is going to be a challenge. We've heard this all the way through We've got a new work force, coming along that may not have the time that we prefer, or the experience. We are going to have to work that one hard to make sure we have properly trained people. The reliability of the BOP can be increased by third-party certification in quality control programs.

Those are some things that we are going to be looking. Panel 4 Pisces Carmichael -- what is the real-time monitoring capabilities in the industry? We saw some great examples of that. I have been personally out into the field to see some of those systems where we can get information back to shore. What we need to focus on is how we get the best use of that from a knowledge perspective, how we turned that information into things that we can use to make decisions in real time as well.

Mark Rubin and his panel finished us off with training and certification. We clearly heard some good programs are out there. We probably do not have any universal standards for implementing those things across the industry. There are even terminology and language differences out there, even if we did. If you got your training in one place, it may not completely mesh up with another. We need a comprehensive approach for training offshore workers. That is a challenge that I'm going to try to take on as the regulator. As one of the leaders of this industry I'm going to work closely with the other leaders of the industry, many of whom are right in this room today.

I can tell you that my take away is that there is a lot of work to do, not just for the BOP, but for the other aspects of safety in the industry. Not that we have a horribly bad safety record, but I think there is a sense that there may be some luck involved right now in some of the statistics that we point to and say it is not that bad because we know there are close calls out there nearly every day.

I think we have heard that from people who work in this industry. I want them to feel more confident that they are going to come home to their loved ones after that shift offshore. I think we can do better for those people through some of the work that we have heard is going on by folks in this room and by the people who work for the companies and organizations. And So, Let's get on with it.

I'm going to do my best to deliver all the things I promised up here this morning and I certainly enlist your support in that. And we'll hope to get together for another one of these in the future. Thank you very much.

