






April 7, 2011

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Dear Ricardo,

The safe and reliable production of U.S. oil and natural gas resources is [critical](#) to American jobs, economic growth and energy security. And with 30 percent of U.S. oil production and 13 percent of natural gas production taking place in the Gulf of Mexico, access to offshore resources is vital.

Development of these resources must be conducted in a way that safeguards industry employees and the environment. For more than 80 years, API's recommended practices have been the gold standard for safe operations, and we're continuously making improvements. Through a transparent, independently-accredited program, the industry has remained laser-focused on raising the bar on safety and environmental performance.

Three significant new examples of our commitment to safety are the creation of the [Center for Offshore Safety](#), which will continue driving safety improvements for all companies operating in deepwater; the establishment of rapid-response spill containment systems for deployment in the unlikely event of an accident in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico; and the development of an additional standard on designing deepwater wells.

At a time of increased uncertainty in the world, one fact remains certain: America has the oil and natural gas reserves we need right here, and the people of America's oil and natural gas industry are *dedicated to providing them safely.*

Sincerely,
Jack N. Gerard
President and CEO
API

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President and CEO
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About API: API represents more than 470 oil and natural gas companies, leaders of a technology-driven industry that supplies most of America's energy, supports more than 9.2 million U.S. jobs and 7.5 percent of the U.S. economy, and, since 2000, has invested nearly \$2 trillion in U.S. capital projects to advance all forms of energy, including alternatives, while reducing the industry's environmental footprint.

API Statement: Center for Offshore Safety

The Center for Offshore Safety will promote the highest level of safety for offshore operations through an effective program that addresses management practices, communication and teamwork, and relies on independent, third-party auditing and verification.

[Read more here.](#)

Briefing Paper: Industry Safety and Environmental Performance

America's oil and natural gas industry considers safety its top priority. We are committed to developing the technologies, standards and best practices needed to help ensure that safety and environmental stewardship are at the forefront of the offshore development process.



[Read more here.](#)