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**Oil Spill Researchers to Convene in New Orleans**  
*Former Shell Chief to Address Group*

**BATON ROUGE, La.** – Hundreds of scientists and other experts will meet Nov. 1 and 2, 2010 at the Marriott New Orleans Convention Center to identify research questions raised by the April Deepwater Horizon disaster, the subsequent oil spill and the impact these events will have on the ecosystem of the Gulf Coast. The conference is co-sponsored by the Louisiana Board of Regents and Louisiana EPSCoR (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research), which is funded by the National Science Foundation.

Researchers will present proposed research, identify opportunities for collaboration and approach National Science Foundation representatives about funding. The conference will address principal areas of scientific interest, including engineering, environmental science, ecology, wildlife management, public health, sociology, psychology, information technology, mapping and modeling. Participants include Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi scientists; national and international researchers; students; industrial/business representatives; and representations from the Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and NSF EPSCoR programs.

At noon on Monday, Nov. 1, researchers will hear from Shell Oil Company former President John D. Hofmeister, founder and CEO of Citizens for Affordable Energy. A conference agenda is available via the web:

[http://web.laregents.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/SC\\_Conf\\_Agenda\\_Oct\\_FINAL.pdf](http://web.laregents.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/SC_Conf_Agenda_Oct_FINAL.pdf)

Funded by the National Science Foundation, EPSCoR's is designed to establish and strengthen collaborations among the state's researchers to help the state:

- Become more competitive in gaining national research and development support;
- Increase science and technology transfer activities with business and industry; and
- Educate larger numbers of science and engineering undergraduate and graduate students, especially minorities.

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