

NLWJC- Kagan

Counsel - Box 008 - Folder 013

Rhode Island Oil Spill

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

11-Feb-1996 04:00pm

TO: Elena Kagan

FROM: Bradley M. Campbell
 Council on Environmental Quality

SUBJECT: Call follow-up

I tried to reach you last week so that we might discuss the Rhode Island spill and its aftermath (I have been apprised that you are coordinating all WH contacts on this issue). Please call at your convenience, and in the meantime I'd appreciate being kept in the loop.

K. Wallman 1/25/96

Rhode Island Oil Spill

Pres / Gov → DOT - should try to
[discover parties responsible
(ID)

J. Schmidt - "on the case"

Coord. w/ us -

Can't adjudicate something
in press?

} CEA
FEMA - S. Silverman

Eliz? / Dina?

Set up approp. process: re any ^{public} shuts,
vetting. any contacts w/
DOT

Nancy McFadden

S. Silverman

Main response activity - Coast Guard / EPA ← Peter Robertsen

Recovery - asked commerce to coord. recovery plan

2 Jonathan Saller 482-4127

MT was to do

Pres in lunch w/ Gov.

Jim Siman 1/26/95

Potential litigation - looking into enf. action
Natural resources damage act's ~~intention~~ ↓
recovery on behalf of U.S. viol. of water pollution
trustee of NR law on other law
Interior; NOAA (commerce)
→ to trustees in trust for resource

Working w/ U.S. Atty in R.I. - also w/ state (not sure what role)

On this since the weekend
regional response team } DOJ on both
national " " } consulting over weekend from
very bef.

Sen. Kennedy/Reed - very interested
We've had some contacts

● People likely to contact WH -
talk to us before responding to people in the regions
or before making public statements.

- Things to avoid:
"On top + is going to fix" OK
but don't suggest WH is doing litigation decisions.

Factual shorts

Lois Schiffrer 1/25/96

pub. shuts
Before-census w/ Gov.

Inter-mental office

514-2701

Jim Simon - Deputy ✓

John Crutten -

?

They'll keep me posted

Give me broad parameters

↓

- say fine-if inside
- if tricky, call him.

Materials



U.S. Department of Justice

Environment and Natural Resources Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

CONFIRMATION NUMBER (202) 514-2701

FAX NUMBER (202) 514-0557

NO. OF PAGES: 3 (INCLUDING COVER PAGE)

TO: Elena Kagan - WH Counsel's office

TELEPHONE NO.: 456-7903

FAX NO.: 456-1647

FROM: Jim Simon

DATE:

MESSAGE:

Elena -
FYI, we don't have other
paper on this.
Jim

PLEASE NOTIFY SENDER IMMEDIATELY IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS RECEIVING THESE PAGES.

U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

JAN 26 1996

The Honorable Jack Reed
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3902

Dear Congressman Reed:

The Attorney General has asked me to respond to your letter of January 22, 1996, regarding the oil spill from the Tank Barge NORTH CAPE off the coast of Rhode Island. We share your concern about the environmental impacts of this spill and about the need for a timely response coordinated among the appropriate federal and state agencies.

The Department became involved in the NORTH CAPE oil spill this past weekend immediately after notification of the disaster through our representatives on the Regional and National Response Teams. In particular, Anthony DiGioia, Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Rhode Island, worked closely with the federal and state natural resource trustees and other agency representatives at meetings at the Unified Command Center at Galilee, Rhode Island, near the site of the spill, when the spill cleanup first began. We also immediately brought in expertise from the Environment and Natural Resources Division, and the Admiralty Branch of the Civil Division in Washington, D.C.

We are also coordinating with other federal and state agencies. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Department of the Interior (DOI), which are the federal natural resource trustees in this case and which have extensive expertise on oil spill responses, are working with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management collecting extensive data relevant to the valuation of damages and to the selection of the appropriate restoration actions. Water column, sediment, and biological sampling has begun. In this respect, we appreciate Governor Almond's request for cooperation and intend to work with the State closely to redress the effects of this serious environmental incident.

The Department will also coordinate with other Departments involved in responding to the oil spill. Our Department representatives in Rhode Island will continue to be available, and our other experts will visit the State and the spill area as the need arises. Please feel free to contact this office if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,


Andrew Fois *A.F.*
Assistant Attorney General

JACK REED
7th DISTRICT, RHODE ISLAND

COMMITTEES
ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL
OPPORTUNITIES
SUBCOMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3902

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

WASHINGTON

1510 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2902
(202) 225-2735

DISTRICT

GARDEN CITY CENTER
100 MIDWAY PLACE
SUITE 5

CRANSTON, RI 02920
(401) 842-3100

TDD RELAY RHODE ISLAND
1-(800) 745-5555

January 22, 1996

The Honorable Janet Reno
U.S. Attorney General
Department of Justice
Tenth Street and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Reno:

I write regarding a recent catastrophe that has befallen hundreds of Rhode Island workers.

This weekend, almost one million gallons of home heating oil were spilled off the coast of my state. This incident caused the immediate closure of many shellfish beds, as well as of the state's lobstering industry.

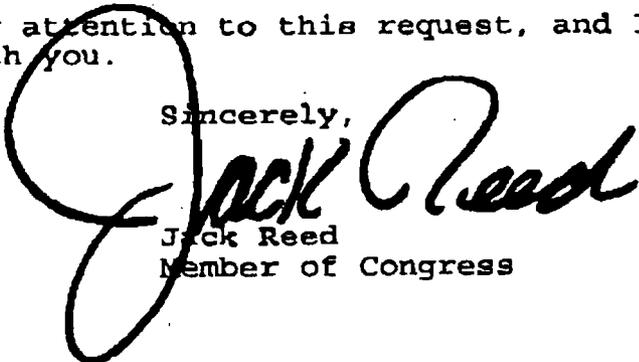
This is the largest oil spill in my state's history, and the economic dislocation caused by the spill is threatening the livelihoods of hundreds of hard working Rhode Island families.

Last night, in a conversation with President Clinton, Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Almond requested that representatives of the Justice Department visit our state to help prepare damage claims. With the severe hardships the spill is causing in mind, I would urge you to take this vital action as soon as possible.

I have also contacted the Department of Commerce, the Department of Labor, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Small Business Administration, and the White House regarding the impact of this weekend's oil spill. I cannot overstate the importance of the Administration responding to this situation in a rapid and comprehensive manner.

I appreciate your attention to this request, and I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,


Jack Reed
Member of Congress