

Public Issues Report 2nd Quarter 2010

Public File 2010 – 2nd Quarter

News at

6:01am	7:01	8:01
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6:31	7:31	8:31
6:45	7:45	8:45

04/01/2010

President Obama will be in Portland, Maine, today defending the new health care law... But it's not healthcare that Obama's getting flack for this morning. Environmentalists are fuming over Obama's decision to allow oil and gas drilling in some Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico waters. They say it goes too far, republicans say not far enough! Meanwhile the latest U.S.A. today--gallup poll finds 50% of Americans would not currently support Obama's reelection, 46% say they would. Then again, the average approval rating of the top Congressional leaders of both parties hovers in the low 30's!

04/02/2010

Federal prosecutors are fighting to keep eight Michigan militia members of Hutaree behind bars while awaiting trial, calling them, "a dark-hearted group with evil intentions." They're accused of plotting to kill cops and start a war against the U.S. But their Court-appointed defense attorneys say the government lacks enough evidence against them to keep them locked up. The Judge in the case is expected to rule before the Easter holiday.

04/05/2010

Has the Tiger scandal blown over? Tiger tees off in Augusta, this after his surprise roll up to the course yesterday for a round on the back nine. But at two this afternoon Woods will finally answer questions from the media. Hopefully he got some t.v. training so he won't look so stiff in front of the cameras this time.

04/06/2010

Officials have 'stopped' the search for four missing miners in West Virginia because the air conditions are just too dangerous. Instead they'll be boring holes in the mine for the next two day to allow the methane to escape. Officials have confirmed 25 miners died in the explosion at the Upper Big Branch Mine about 30 miles south of Charleston, West Virginia. But the missing miners could have breathing devices and make their way to safety chambers that have even food and oxygen for four days. No word on what caused the explosion, but it is the latest in a string of problems for the Massey energy company which runs the mine. It's been fined for several incidents at its 44 facilities.

04/07/2010

What was the cause behind the collapse of the mine? While investigators try to pinpoint what caused the blast, experts say the mine has a shady safety record. The Upper Big Branch mine has had 124 safety violations so far this year; two of them were slapped on Monday before the blast. The violations include ventilation, dust, and too much methane gas violations. There were more than 500 safety violations in 2009 and the company shelled out more than \$900,000 in fines.

04/08/2010

President Obama just made history... He just signed a big nuclear arms treaty with Russia. The new 'Start' treaty will cut both countries nuclear arsenal by about a third. But it also sends a strong message that Russia and the U.S., which owns more than 90% of the world's nuclear weapons between them, are serious about a nukes-free world.

04/09/2010

As President Obama heads back home today after signing the arms deal with Russia... the fight begins with the Senate to get them to approve it. Republican senators are worried about three things; whether the agreement is verifiable, does it make us weaker and is the administration committed to preserving our own weapons stash. The deal needs a two-thirds vote.

04/12/2010

Keep nukes away from terrorists! That's the message today and tomorrow as President Obama hosts world leaders asking them to join the fight against nuclear terrorism. Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton have been greeting several international leaders at the White House all weekend. 47 nations will be at the summit, possibly being the biggest gathering of world leaders in the U.S. since 1945.

04/13/2010

Top dogs from the U.S. State Department are heading to Russia today to push officials there to continue to allow Americans to adopt Russian kids. This comes after outrage after a Tennessee woman decided to ship her adopted seven-year-old boy back to Russia alone, with a note saying, the boy was psychotic and tried to set their home on fire. No word yet on if she'll be charged.

04/14/2010

We're keeping an eye on the developing story out of China this morning, were several strong earthquakes killed 400 people in the West Central area. At least 10,000 people have been hurt and many more are trapped in the collapsed houses made of mud and wood that's common in the area. The strongest quake registered 6-point-9 magnitude.

04/15/2010

Good news for the 200,000 people who lost their unemployment benefits last week! The senate cleared the final hurdle on extending the benefits last night and the bill is expected to be pass today or tomorrow. The people benefitong from this are set to get more than 300 bucks a week from the feds.

04/16/2010

The kidnapping charges against nine American missionaries once held in Haiti have been dropped this morning. As you may remember, the group involved claimed they were trying to help children get adopted after the massive earthquake. But the group's leader, Laura Silsby is still in a Haitian jail and she faces prosecution.

04/19/2010

Toyota will cut a big check for not telling the feds about the sticky gas pedals. The feds say the automaker agreed to pay it's 16.4 million dollar fine. Meanwhile, the company is sending out another recall, this time for 600,000 Sienna minivans. It says the spare tire carrier-cable could rot, causing the spare to fall off. This is for Siennas made since 1998.

04/20/2010

It's official... Toyota is recalling the 2010 Lexus gx 460. The automaker 'suspended' sales last week after consumer reports issued a 'do not buy' due to rollover problems. Now Toyota says Lexus dealers will update the software for the vehicle stability control. All dealers should have the upgrades in house by the end of the month.

04/21/2010

More than 25% of young Americans are too fat to fight. That's the word from a group of ex-military who just released a new report stating the number one reason potential young recruits don't qualify for the military is because of obesity. The group calls it a potential national security threat and wants Congress to pass a law for better nutrition in school lunches.

04/22/2010

The fire is still burning this morning after an explosion on an oil rig off the Louisiana Coast. The coast guard is still looks for 11 missing workers and it was confirmed that one-hundred workers from the deepwater horizon rig made it ashore on boats. Seventeen others were flown to nearby hospitals, four in critical condition and no word yet on what caused the explosion.

04/23/2010

Another challenge for the Catholic Church today; an Illinois man is suing the Vatican and the Pope, demanding names of priest who abused. Arthur Budzinski, who spoke through at a press conference in Milwaukee, says he was abused by a priest who is now dead. That priest is accused of molesting up to 200 boys at a school for the deaf in Wisconsin. No comment from the Vatican.

04/26/2010

The first ever cancer-treatment vaccine could be "green lighted" this week! The food and drug administration will decide on whether to allow "Provenge" on the market. The creators say the vaccine can help prevent or stop prostate cancer by mobilizing a patients own immune system against tumors. Most doctors agree... "Provenge" could open doors for immunity against a wide range of cancers!

04/27/2010

42,000 gallons a day.. That's how much oil is spewing into the Gulf of Mexico right now. The rig's owners, along with the coast guard, are sending 30 more ships to contain the leak again today. Good case scenario, the slick could stay at sea for the next three days and eventually evaporate, breakdown and sink, or get cleaned up.

04/28/2010

The new plan to clean up the oil spill in the gulf coast this morning... Set it on fire! The well's owner, B.P. is racing to shut it off, but 42,000 gallons of oil are still leaking every day. And the slick is getting too close to land for comfort, so starting this morning crews will start a controlled burn using fire-proof booms. The oil could hit the shoreline this weekend if the burn doesn't work.

04/29/2010

The nation will honor a civil rights legend today, activist Dorothy Height. President Obama will deliver the eulogy during the service at the Washington national cathedral this morning. Height was the president of the council for negro women for 41 years. She died last week at the age of 98.

04/30/2010

The Feds are stepping in big time today to help with cleaning up the Gulf Coast as the oil mess has reached the shore. Besides tog cabinet members from the Obama administration heading to the area today, the navy has already sent more than 60,000 feet of inflatable boom to help rope off and collect the spill. It shipped seven skimming systems to scrape the oil off the surface of the water. and it sent 50 civilian contracts to help crews there. And President Obama says he's taking steps now to ensure this doesn't happen again. As many as 210,000 gallons of oil a day are pouring into the Gulf and it could take weeks to clean it up.

05/03/2010

BP's underwater robots still can't stop that oil leak in the Gulf, which is adding to their tab. President Obama promises BP will be coughing up the dough for this bill. That was the word as he toured the area yesterday. Today the attention is turning to fishermen who are losing their livelihood and rescuing the wildlife due to the 210,000 gallons of oil that is still spewing from what's left of the rig that exploded April 20th.

05/04/2010

The FBI is searching the apartment of the U.S. citizen arrested early this morning who's accused of buying that SUV that was loaded with explosives in Times Square, NY. But now 30 year old Faisal Shahzad claims that he acted alone, the Pakistani born man will be in court today to hear the charges against him. Even though the J.D. didn't say what those charges would be, and they didn't say if he's the man we see in this surveillance video. Cops arrested him just before midnight at JFK as he tried to board a plane to Dubai.

05/05/2010

Calm winds in the Gulf Coast are keeping the oil out in the water and away from shore, it's good news for the crews trying to clean up the mess. Mean while, they plan to install a 100-ton containment dome today, they'll drop it over the well and if it works, the underwater container would hold the leaking oil until it could be safely pumped into an oil tanker on the surface.

05/06/2010

Immigration reform is now one of the top priorities for President Obama. Obama wants democrats and republicans to work together to design a comprehensive immigration bill the right way. He's referring to Arizona's controversial immigration law that has sparked huge demonstrations like the one last night in Phoenix.

05/07/2010

For 17 days crews in the Gulf of Mexico have tried everything to clean up that oil spill. Yesterday, they tried burning it off again. Early this morning crews lowered that containment dome underwater, some 5,000 thousand feet. They're hoping the box will collect at least 85 percent of the oil spewing and funnel it up to a tanker.

05/10/2010

President Obama will announce his Supreme Court nominee, and it looks like more girl power is headed to the bench. Word is he's picked Elena Kagan. Right now, Kagan's the U.S. solicitor and at 50 years of age, she would be the youngest justice. She's never served as a judge, but was dean at Harvard Law School. If Kagan is confirmed, she would be one of three female justices on the bench.

05/11/2010

Just as he boarded a plane to Portugal this morning, Pope Benedict made a very powerful statement about the sex abuse scandal. When answering a reporter's question about it the Pope said the crisis of sexual abuse of children by priests should make the Church acknowledge the "terrifying" truth that its greatest threat comes not from outside enemies but from "sin within the Church".

05/12/2010

Crews are hoping that the new top hat' dome contains the 210,000 gallons of oil spewing in the Gulf. It's smaller than the original containment dome that didn't work because ice crystals formed inside. This one is just 5-feet tall and engineers will be able to pump in methanol, in the hoping of keeping those crystals from forming. Meanwhile, oil execs are back on the hot seat in D.C.

05/13/2010

More flack against Arizona due to that controversial immigration law. L.A. city officials just joined San Francisco, Oakland and several other California cities to boycott Arizona. This means that the city departments will not sign any new contracts with Arizona companies. If this occurs it will cause a big blow to Arizona's economy, right now L.A. has 56 million dollars in contracts with Arizona companies.

05/14/2010

Space shuttle Atlantis takes her final voyage into space. Today Atlantis will carry equipment for the international space station on a 12-day mission. After Atlantis blasts into space at 2:20 a.m., only two more missions are left before the shuttle program is scheduled to end

05/17/2010

BP's top executive hopes the hot seat will be cooler today on Capitol Hill as he testifies about the company cleaning up the oil spill. BP executives says the mile-long tube they stuck into the broken oil pipe 'appears to be working, believing the technique will suck up most of the 4 million gallons of oil that has been pouring out and then siphon it to tankers above.

05/18/2010

President Obama will set up a special commission to investigate this oil spill. This as BP executives has to answer even more questions on Capitol Hill today. The presidential commission will look into what caused the spill, how BP handled it and other rig safety and regulatory issues.

5/19/2010

President Obama and Mexican President Felipe Calderon have several key issues to settle during their state meeting at the White House today. It'll be a day of hot topic; on the table is the economy, drugs and of course immigration. Calderon is already in disagreement about Arizona's new immigration law, calling it 'backward'.

05/20/2010

BP claims it's making progress containing the oil spill this morning, but some Gulf Coast states and Cuba are worried it's too late. Louisiana's Governor says some of the thick oil is washing into the marshlands. And now researchers confirm the crude has seeped into the loop current that could take it to Cuba, around Florida and beyond. That's why U.S. and Cuba diplomats are meeting today to talk about the risks.

05/21/2010

The Senate finally passed financial reform for Wall Street. Senators approved a consumer protection agency and new ways to watch for risks in the money market. The bill has to be merged with the House version, but could land on the President's desk by July 4th.

05/24/2010

It's getting real ugly between North and South Korea this morning. South Korea's President just announced he's suspending trade with the North over claims that North Korea sank one of the South's battleships. This morning President Lee Myung-Bak asked the North to apologize, but the north denies it sank the ship. Meanwhile President Obama told our military to get ready to coordinate with South Korea if needed.

05/25/2010

The Feds are one step closer to repealing the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy this morning. House leaders approved an agreement last night with the White House, and possibly the Pentagon, that would set the stage to end the policy by this week. Full implementation wouldn't happen until the end of this year, to early next year. The Senate Armed Services Committee and the Full House could vote on it as early as Thursday.

05/26/2010

Secretary of State Hilary Clinton is in Seoul, South Korea this morning, trying to keep the peace. As North Korea freezes relations with the South. She just wrapped up a visit to Beijing, China yesterday which is North Korea's number one ally. She wants to work with them on getting the north to simmer down. The North is upset about the South talking noise about them sinking its warship last week.

05/27/2010

A new report says the number of attempted terror attacks on the U.S is at an all-time high. The new Department of Homeland Security note comes just weeks after the botched Times Square car bombing. Officials say there have been more attempted attacks in the past nine months than in "any other previous one-year period". They also have to keep a closer eye on homegrown terrorism than ever before.

05/28/2010

President Obama heads to the Gulf coast today to get a closer look at what's now being called the worst oil spill in U.S history. New numbers out this morning show why. U.S. federal scientists say between 18 and 39 million gallons of crude oil have leaked since the rig explosion 39 days ago. And right now between 12 and 19-thousand barrels a day are leaking.

05/31/2010

PRE-TAPED SHOW 06/01/2010 President Obama will meet with his new 'oil spill commission' today. This as BP says they are back to the drawing board and as residents worry about the effects the oil may have on the upcoming hurricane season.

06/02/2010

The oil slick is getting bigger and it's moving. More fishing ground is closed this morning. More than a third of the Gulf is off limits. This as the Attorney General promises to bring those responsible to justice, saying "Our environmental laws are very clear and we have a responsibility to enforce them and we will do so." Meanwhile BP plans to install this containment dome this morning over the broken pipe to hopefully stop the leak. But they better hurry. The coast guard says the oil is washing up on the Alabama, Mississippi and Florida panhandle coasts. They also say 34.3 million gallons of oil has leaked into the Gulf, Three times the amount of the Exxon Valdez spill.

06/03/2010

White House aide Rahm Emanuel has been called up to testify at Rod Blagojevich's corruption trial, which starts today. Word is Emanuel was recorded in conversations with Blago about Obama's vacant senate seat. Prosecutors also say Blago tried to extort money out of Emanuel, who was a congressman at the time, over a state grants to a school in his district. Blago says he's innocent.

06/04/2010

President Obama has been getting a lot of flack for not being emotional enough and not doing enough about the spill. Obama says he knows ultimately this is about the people, and we know that too...so we want to show you how this oil spill affects you. New model from National Center for Atmospheric Research shows it is likely to extend along thousands of miles of the Atlantic coast and into the open ocean as early as this summer. There are health risks once the oil reaches your shore. Experts say you should stay away from oil on the beach and in the water, however, they say limited contact is nothing to worry about. But exposure to large amounts can cause breathing problems, skin irritation and swallowing it can make you sick. Seafood prices are skyrocketing; one Florida restaurant is reporting shrimp is up \$1 per lb, oysters are up \$2 per 50 lb. bag, and crab as much as \$3 more per pound. The oil spill is also hurting animals. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have confirmed at least one dead dolphin and one dead sea turtle have visible signs of oil damage. So far, 29 dead dolphins and 227 dead sea turtles have been collected within the BP oil spill area, but the vast majority have not been tested for oil.

06/07/2010

Hundred of thousands of Chrysler vehicles are rolling dirty this morning. The automaker is recalling 285-thousand '08 and '09 Dodge Caravan and Chrysler Town & Country cars because they could possibly catch fire. The Feds say the wiring could short circuit and cause a fire. Thankfully there is no word on anyone getting hurt. This is on top of the 35-thousand 2007 Dodge Caliber and Jeep Compass recalled because of sticking gas pedals.

06/08/2010

Day 50 and the broken oil pipe is still leaking, officials say the cap on the well is capturing a half-million gallons a day. Officials think there are between 25 and 39 million gallons of oil floating in the gulf right now. Meanwhile, the Feds want to remove the 75 million dollar cap on liabilities for oil companies.

06/09/2010

The Feds confirmed plumes of oil floating underwater and a second leak from a rig damaged since hurricane Ivan hit in 2004. They say the 14 gallons of oil leaking a day has created a ten mile long slick.

06/10/2010

Polygamist leader Warren Jeffs, is a free man this morning after Arizona prosecutors dropped 'all' the rape charges against him. He had been accused of arranging the marriage of two girls younger than 18 to their older male relatives, who were their half cousins. Apparently the two 'victims' didn't want to pursue the case anymore. But Texas prosecutors still want to extradite him for more serious rape charges.

06/11/2010

More bad news for the disaster in the Gulf... New numbers from the Feds show there is more oil spewing out of this broken pipe than originally thought. The Feds say now up to 40-thousand barrels a day are leaking instead of the 19-thousand they originally thought.

06/14/2010

President Obama will be in the Gulf Coast area today and tomorrow. And for the first time, he'll host a roundtable to discuss the impact the spill had on everybody's lives. It'll give Obama a clearer picture before his meeting with BP officials Wednesday, when he pushes them to set up a fund to pay for damage claims from the spill, this is getting a huge thumbs up from people in the area. "We have to do something. If you look at what's going on with the economy and the state of Alabama and Mississippi, Louisiana, and now Florida, we're going to have to have some level of compensation." - Obama. After he tours the Gulf, the President then heads back to Washington where he'll address the nation from the oval office tomorrow night at 8.

06/15/2010

This just in... an American on a mission to "find Osama Bin Laden" is now parked in Pakistan! Pakistani police say the 52 year old California man was found walking from Pakistan toward the Afghanistan border packing a pistol, a sword, night-vision equipment and Christian books! He reportedly told cops he was looking for Osama Bin Laden and has been since 9/11. So far the U.S. Embassy is being pretty tight lipped.

06/16/2010

Obama says it's time for the company that caused the largest environmental disaster in history to pay up. He is to set aside whatever resources are required to compensate the workers and business owners who have been harmed as a result of his company's recklessness. The escrow fund will be controlled by a third party. He also just appointed Navy Secretary Ray Mabus to lead the recovery efforts and deployed 17-thousand National Guard troops to help. It'll be all hands on deck because now the feds say between 1.5 and 2.5 million gallons of oil are leaking every day.

06/17/2010

BP's CEO Tony Hayward will be on the hot seat, where lawmakers promise to rip him a new one over this oil spill disaster. Representative Bart Stupak wants lawmakers to grill Hayward over what they're calling a pattern of risky behavior in order to save money and make up time for the drilling project being behind schedule. Meanwhile, the company is backtracking this morning and apologizing for the chairman saying BP cares about the 'small people' of the Gulf. BP's representative says he misspoke. BP is also setting up that claims fund to shell out 20 billion dollars to compensate victims.

06/18/2010

While you were sleeping a Utah death row inmate was put to death by firing squad. Ronnie Gardner was convicted of murdering two people 25 years ago and chose to die by "firing squad" before Utah banned it. Gardner was strapped to a chair and hooded with a target over his chest. Five executioners did the job. The last firing squad execution in the u-s was 14 years ago.

06/21/2010

DC Councilwoman supports making restaurants show a letter grade based on their most recent health inspection. Many health departments across the US are creating such programs that either display the letter grade in the restaurant or online. The C.D.C. says, every year about 1,000 outbreaks of food-borne illness occur and about half of which involve meals from a restaurant. Here are some places that are starting the grading: NYC restaurants will start displaying letter grades in July. Camden County, N.J., posted a database in April where users can search for inspections and receive e-mail alerts when their favorite restaurant is inspected. Grand Prairie, Texas, began posting letter grades online in April.

06/22/2010

The man who pleads "guilty" to trying to blow up Times Square says the U.S. needs to watch out! After entering his plea yesterday in federal court, Faisal Shahzad said "more attacks" are coming unless the U.S. pulls out of Muslim countries. He also told the judge he didn't care if children died in the explosions, because "it's a war". Shahzad faces life in prison for the conspiracy and terrorism charges, he'll be sentenced in October.

06/23/2010

The White House is working on a new moratorium this morning on offshore drilling after a judge blocked the temporary ban. Team Obama plans to show some big time evidence why the ban is needed, but Louisiana governor Bobby Jindall says he thinks the feds should listen to the experts about this, and the ban will do more harm than good.

06/24/2010

A New Orleans judge may decide "today" whether a government ban on deepwater drilling will continue. Earlier this week, the judge, struck down the ban, declaring it "arbitrary and capricious". The judge has investments with oil companies down in the gulf. Team Obama filed paperwork last night asking the decision be delayed "until" an appeals court can review the case later this summer. We'll see if the judge obliges.

06/25/2010

Day 67 and the oil is still spewing. BP says the cost of the response is now more than 2.3 billion dollars and climbing. But fishermen and environmental officials are worried about something else now, saving the wildlife. Bluefin Tuna could be added to the endangered species list, it only breeds in the Gulf of Mexico and Mediterranean. There are 7 species of sea turtles in the world, five are in the Gulf. Also five-thousand dolphins are set to give birth there this season and it's breeding season for brown pelicans, which is the Louisiana state bird.

06/28/2010

Health insurance relief will be heading to some later this week. 30 states have signed up for the federal health care plan to help people with pre-existing conditions that can't get coverage. But some of those states like California and Michigan are working through some red tape. And that means some people won't get a chance to sign up Thursday. Check with your state to see when you can enroll.

06/29/2010

Senators are confirming that General David Petraeus is to lead the Afghan war. The vote approving him should be a slam dunk. But some drama is expected to come from lawmakers not happy about the nine-year-old war in Afghanistan. Petraeus would replace General Stanley McChrystal who resigned last week over comments he and his aides made trashing the administration.

06/30/2010

Iconic interviewer Larry King announced via twitter last night he will be stepping down. He will step out of his show later this year, because he wants to spend more time with his wife and young children. King recently almost divorced his wife, but later worked things out.