3-14-2014

Newsroom: Voice of Russia: Logan on BP's Future

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Voice of Russia: Logan on BP's Future

Dean David Logan talks about the EPA's decision to allow BP to once again bid for offshore oil and gas drilling licenses, four years after the colossal Gulf oil spill.

From VOICE OF RUSSIA: "EPA lets BP back in the offshore game, with some strings attached" by David Kerans

WASHINGTON, March 14, 2014 (VR) — BP's public relations nightmare from the colossal 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill is slowly winding down, and the EPA's decision to allow the company once again to bid for licenses to drill for oil and gas offshore in US territorial waters is another step towards normalcy.

Speaking with Radio VR's David Kerans, David A. Logan, dean of Roger Williams University School of Law, sees nothing sinister in the EPA's decision. Logan points out that large civil cases are almost always settled out of court, so this conclusion was not unexpected.

Further, BP has agreed to go the extra mile henceforth in a variety of ways to minimize the risk of another catastrophe. The company will bolster ethics training, scrutinize technical and administrative procedures, etc. In consequence, remarks Logan, BP bids for government licenses will come with added credibility from now on.

BP is the Pentagon's largest fuel supplier, and, through its generous dividend payouts, is also the biggest contributor to UK pension disbursements. Nevertheless, Logan does not suspect either the Pentagon nor the UK government influenced the EPA's resolution of the case. Nor does he see any signal here of how the Obama administration will handle impending decisions regarding the Keystone XL pipeline, which would bring tar sands hydrocarbons from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, with potentially devastating consequences for the climate.