The GPI+  

The Gulf Permit Index: A Report on New Well Permit Issuance and Plan Approvals from BSEE and BOEM

The GPI+ is provided by GNO, Inc., and its parish partners in collaboration with the Business Council of New Orleans & the River Region, Jefferson Business Council, and Northshore Business Council

**GPI+ as of January 3, 2012**

**Deep Water Permits**

Over the past three months, an average of 2.0 deep water permits are being issued per month, representing a decrease of 66% from the monthly average observed in the year prior to the oil spill, and a decrease of 71% from the historical monthly average of 7.0 new deep water well permits.

![Deep Water - Approved New Permits](chart)

**Shallow Water Permits**

Over the past three months, an average of 2.3 shallow water permits are being issued per month, representing a decrease of 68% from the monthly average observed in the year prior to the oil spill, and a decrease of 84% from the historical monthly average of 14.7 new shallow water well permits.

![Shallow Water - Approved New Permits](chart)

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3-Year Historical Avg. = 7.0/mo.

3-Year Historical Avg. = 14.7/mo.

Year Prior to Oil Spill Avg. = 7.1/mo.

Three-Month Avg. = 2.0/mo.

Year Prior to Oil Spill Avg. = 5.8/mo.

Three-Month Avg. = 2.3/mo.

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Source: BSEE, BOEM, GNO, Inc. Analysis

1 Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Washington
In 2011, the average approval time for a plan was 109 days, representing an increase of 80% from the historical average of 60.6 days. Since the oil spill, all deepwater plans that include any type of drilling activity must undergo an environmental assessment (EA) process; for deepwater plans requiring EAs in 2011, the average approval time was 213 days, significantly higher than the overall average approval time.

In 2011, 34% of plans submitted to BOEMRE were approved, representing a difference of 54% from the historical 73.4% approval rate. The low approval rate in 2010 is largely due to the moratorium which existed from May 31 to October 12, 2010.