In November 2012, 11 deep-water permits were issued. These permit approvals represent an increase of 5 permits (83%) from the monthly average observed in the year prior to the oil spill, and an increase of 4 permits (57%) from the historical monthly average of 7 new deep-water well permits 3 years prior to the spill. In December 2012, 10 deep-water permits were issued. These permit approvals represent an increase of 4 permits (67%) from the monthly average observed in the year prior to the oil spill and a three-permit increase (43%) from the monthly average of 7 new deep-water well permits.

In November 2012, 7 shallow-water permits were issued, equaling the monthly average observed in the year prior to the oil spill, and representing an 8-permit decrease (53%) from the 3-year historical monthly average of 15 new shallow-water well permits. In December 2012, 4 shallow-water permits were issued, representing a decrease of 3 permits (43%) from the monthly average observed in the year prior to the oil spill, and an 11-permit decrease (73%) from the 3-year historical monthly average of 15 new shallow-water well permits.
In November 2012, the average approval time for a plan was 120 days, representing an increase of 97% from the historical average of 61 days. In December 2012, the average approval time for a plan was 118 days, representing an increase of 93% from the historical average of 61 days.