On Friday night, I returned from four days in Houston, where my team of scientists and I have been monitoring the progress of the "top kill" effort and helping to design the strategies for moving forward.

We have been getting the data at the same time as BP engineers, and conducting our own independent analysis of the data so that we can verify the conclusions that BP is making at every step.

Our efforts did not kill the well.

It appears that we are not able to force mud into all of the flow path areas that are allowing oil and gas to come up. There is also a chance that the separator disks are not properly rotating. If we continue trying to force mud down, we risk damaging these disks.

So it is time to move on to the next option, which is to put a cap on top of the ROP to contain the spill and pump it to the surface.