On Friday night, I returned from four days in Houston, where we met with scientists and 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.

More than 350 personnel from our national laboratories have been contributing to this effort. For example, we have helped with high quality 2D and 3D seismic data that the industry experts have said breaks all norms for deep-water subsea operations. That imagery is crucial in helping understand what is happening inside the ROP and BP engineers have benefitted from that as well.

This is an incredibly complicated technical and engineering challenge – we are attempting something that has never been done before at this depth.

Top Kill Statistics of insight:
- 3 pumps were used, and 2 fans
- Pumped with 3,000 barrels of heavy mud at rates up to 40 bhp, 5,000 psi surface pressure, 1,000 psi per toolhead
- Forced 16 different bridging materials down (varying viscosities, clays and micro-spheres)
- 29 vessels in the area, including 10 ROPs,
- [Top Kill #1 May 26th] Pumped 13,700 bbls, 16.8 rpm, 5,5 bhp
- [Top Kill #2 May 27th] Pumped 12,000 bbls, 16 rpm, 5,5 bhp with 16 shots of

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