

110316AtlanticDrillingBriefing

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00:00 Alex Frank: And welcome to this new conference sponsored by the Natural Resource Defense Council, Oceana, Environment America and League of Conversation Voters. You'll be hearing from 10 speakers today. Before we introduce them as a group and then individually, I wanna bring you up later on the line to explain how the Q&A period will work. Operator?

00:20 Operator: Certainly. During the question and answer session, you may ask a question by pressing star then one on your telephone keypad. If you'd like to withdraw your questions from the queue, you may press star then two. We please ask that you limit yourself to one question and a single follow-up. If you need to ask additional questions, please note that you may press the star one to rejoin the queue. Thank you.

00:43 AF: And we will repeat those instructions about how members of the news media can pose questions at the start of the Q&A period. And as I mentioned, you'll be hearing from 10 speakers today. Our first speaker will be Claire Douglass, Campaign Director for Oceana. Our second speaker today will be Frank Knapp, President and CEO of South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce. Our third speaker today will be Queen Quet, Chieftess of the Gullah/Geechee Nation. Our fourth speaker today will be Laura Wood Habr, Vice President of the Virginia Beach Restaurant Association and co-owner of Croc's 19th Street Bistro. Our fifth speaker today will be Mayor Billy Keyserling of Beaufort, South Carolina. Our sixth speaker today will be Mayor Johnny Miller of Fernandina Beach, Florida. Our seventh speaker will be Bill Hamilton, President of the Homecomers Inc in Saint Augustine, Florida and the South Anastasia Community Association. Our eighth speaker today will be Dr. L. Kyle Horton of Kure Beach, North Carolina.

01:56 AF: Our ninth speaker will be Vicki T. Clark, President of the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce and our last speaker today will be Diane Hanson, Council Member in Dewey Beach, Delaware. And before we get started with our first speaker today, I wanna make sure you know where you can follow along and find today's briefer. You can find that on the web at www.stophedrill.org. Again that's www.stophedrill.org. Okay, let's begin with our first speaker which is Claire Douglass, campaign director for Oceana. Claire?

02:34 Claire Douglass: Good afternoon everybody. Thank you all for joining us today. Again, I wanted to welcome you to the conference organized by Environment America, the League of Conversation Voters, the Natural Resource Defense Council and Oceana. I will be speaking for all four groups and I'm delighted to be joined by the concerned individual group and elected officials from up and down the East Coast. This news event is really about the local communities and their economies and so, I will keep my statement brief. We are here today to announce the building and intense pressure for the Obama Administration to take action and to permanently protect the Atlantic Coast from seismic air gun blasting and offshore drilling. This year alone, thousands of businesses have stepped up to say they do not want to see seismic air gun blasting and offshore drilling off their coast. Members of Congress from Maine to Florida have also called on the President to protect the Atlantic Coast and permanently protect it from drilling. Along the Atlantic Coast, nearly 1.4 million jobs and 95 billion in gross domestic product mainly through fishing, tourism and recreation rely on healthy ocean ecosystem.

03:47 CD: President Obama, before he leaves office is making a decision on offshore drilling and the use of Federal lands and their role on addressing climate change. Such a step would go beyond the current five year moratorium on offshore drilling in the Atlantic and firmly address climate

change in a meaningful way. Assuring communities, fishing families, businesses and others whose fate is tied to the health and vitality of the Atlantic Coast. The media briefer we are releasing today outlines more than half a dozen major developments in the last nine months to show that the White House is hearing from individuals, groups and businesses from Maine to Florida. As of today, 120 East Coast Municipalities have formally approached offshore oil exploration and/or drilling off the Atlantic Coast representing millions of East Coast residents. On October 27th, the Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast or BAPAC representing over 12,000 businesses and 400,000 commercial fishing families sent a letter to President Obama indicating that the signers want to stop seismic air gun blasting searching for oil and gas.

04:57 CD: Two weeks ago, on October 13th, the Natural Resource Defense Council and the League of Conservation Voters released a survey finding showing that 59% of Americans including 84% of Democrats, 63% of Independents and 67% of the Millennials would support permanently protecting the Atlantic Ocean from offshore drilling. In October and September, Capitol Hill weighed in with a letter from a group of 14 Democratic centers on October 6th and a separate letter on September 28th for a bipartisan group of 74 House Members. Here is what the US House Members had to say. "The United States must continue to lead the fight against global warming not only by committing to clean energy alternative, but also by closing the door on new dangerous and environmentally harmful oil drilling. Protecting the Atlantic and Arctic coastlines against future oil and gas extraction would send a powerful signal to the world that the United States is fully committed to developing... Delivering on our climate commitment. It would help defend our communities and the future generations against the health, environmental and economic impacts of climate change and a possibility of a catastrophic oil spill. Plain and simple, we do not need and cannot afford to expand drilling into these sensitive areas."

06:19 CD: On February 16th, over 360 Atlantic Coast businesses sent a letter urging the Obama administration to take the Atlantic out of the proposed plan which it did in March. For a full overview of local municipalities, business interests, fishing groups, state and local elected officials, members of Congress and other stakeholders opposed to offshore drilling, we encourage you to visit www.stophedrill.org. Again Obama needs to finish the job and permanently protect the Atlantic from seismic air gun blasting and offshore drilling. I can continue to talk about what it looks from the national level, but there's just no substitute from hearing from the local voices, the real people who are living with this issue everyday. And that is what's coming up next. Thank you for your attention to my remarks I look forward to taking your questions in the Q&A period.

07:13 AF: Again, that was Claire Douglass, Campaign Director for Oceana. And that takes us to our second speaker today which is Frank Knapp, President and CEO of the South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce. Frank?

07:26 Frank Knapp: Thank you very much, Alex, I appreciate it, and thank you, Claire. Proponents of seismic testing and offshore drilling claim that this will be a boom to the economy of our Atlantic coast. However, businesses along the coast know the opposite is true and would instead threaten our local fishing, tourism and recreation economies. So as Claire has already mentioned, a recent letter to the President sponsored by the Business Alliance for Protecting of the Atlantic Coast, urges him to oppose seismic testing. And that letter has been signed by individual businesses and business organizations that do represent over 12,000 businesses and 400,000 commercial fishing families. It really is time for the President to use his authority to permanently protect the Atlantic Coast and our vibrant coastal economies forever. Thank you, Alex.

08:17 AF: Thank you. Again, that was Frank Knapp, President and CEO of the South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce. And that takes us to our third speaker today which is Queen Quet, Chieftess of the Gullah/Geechee Nation. Queen?

08:31 Queen Quet: Thank you, thank you Frank. Glad to be here with all the honored to in fighting for a great cause. And I'm very pleased to be able to talk about culture and the context of why we want the President to stop seismic guns from being tested off here in the Atlantic. The Gullah/Geechee Nation exists from Jacksonville, North Carolina to Jacksonville, Florida, and encompasses the Sea Islands. So we literally live in the water. And coastal resources are inextricably tied to the sustainability of Gullah/Geechee cultural heritage because of the fact that we live in and from the sea. I looked at it as an acronym today for the word "culture". We are a Community Upholding Living Traditions, Uniting Resources of the Environment. And this is why we participated in the Coastal Voices Summit earlier this year while we continued to support stopthedrill.org and why we still want people to hold on to this precious Gullah/Geechee culture and our fisheries and the ecological balance that is in our ocean now that would not be there if the seismic guns come. Because then, it will take creatures away from our waterway and without these waterways being healthy as they are our culture, won't thrive and survive.

09:55 QQ: There's a Gullah/Geechee proverb that says, "The water that bring we, the water gonna take we back." There's also one that says, "The lead fish, the big fish and now part of the lead fish." And we want to be part of these piranha that say, "We need to chew up anything that ever allows for oil drilling or seismic gun testing on this coast." So thank you all for standing up and for all of us on the land and this legacy that live in the sea.

10:24 AF: Thank you. Again, that was Queen Quet, Chieftess of the Gullah/Geechee Nation. And that takes us to our fourth speaker today which is Laura Wood Habr, Vice President of the Virginia Beach Restaurant Association and Co-owner of Croc's 19th Street Bistro. Laura?

10:40 Laura Wood Habr: Hi, this is Laura Wood Habr speaking from Virginia Beach, Virginia with a sunny 78 degree weather. But I am a Co-owner of Croc's 19th Street Bistro and serve as the Vice-President of the Virginia Beach Restaurant Association. I also chair a green and sustainability sub-committee for our Virginia Beach Resort Advisory Commission which we advice City Council on maintaining our resort as a first class destination. I also founded the ViBe Creative District as a revitalization project at the ocean front that's become a growing hub of the arts, culture and technology in our city. And our local business community in Virginia Beach is truly dedicated to investing in our future; in a future that's sustainable, it's prosperous and features our city as the premier beach destination on the East Coast.

11:26 LH: Our Virginia State tourism industry represented by the Virginia Restaurant and Lodging and Travel Association along with numerous other tourism bodies including our Hotel Association and our Restaurant Association are united in our opposition to oil and gas development off our coast. We're just growing really tired of having to continually fight big oil to protect our city from this destructive industry. And we're urging President Obama to do the right thing, permanently protect the Atlantic from both seismic air gun blasting and offshore drilling so, we can get back to running our businesses and building up our community. And we're also already dealing with the reality as the second most vulnerable region in the US facing sea level rise. We saw that firsthand with Hurricane Matthew recently. And in addition, there's a local effort proposed in that the Norfolk

Canyon offer a coast of becoming a National Marine Sanctuary that we wanna see protected as well from seismic blasting. Thank you.

12:29 AF: Thank you. Again, that was Laura Wood Habr, Vice President of the Virginia Beach Restaurant Association and co-owner of Croc's 19th Street Bistro. That takes us to our fifth speaker today which is Mayor Billy Keyserling, Beaufort, South Carolina. Mayor?

12:45 Mayor Billy Keyserling: I'm not gonna take any time to compete with Laura on the temperature, but it is one degree warmer here and a lot sunnier. I'm the Mayor of Beaufort which sits as the crow flies between Charleston and Savannah. We are a series of over 100 small islands and some large islands, the largest of which is Port Royal Island and Hilton Head Island and Barrier Islands. We spend a generation investing, literally, billions of public and private dollars and building an infrastructure to celebrate tourism, recreation, fishing and as Queen Quet said, preserving our unique culture. It seems like everyday we're waiting for a storm. We just waited for Matthew. We saw not only the hurricane, but we saw the rising sea levels. We have had hanging over our head, for too long, this question of unnecessary seismic testing and drilling off of our coast. It's not gonna be as easy to manage the sea level rise. We're not gonna stop the hurricanes. But if we could give the weight of the day-to-day worry that our coastal zone, the Beaufort coastal zone and unnecessary off the table permanently, I would be, and our community would feel much safer. Thank you.

14:22 AF: Again, that was Mayor Billy Keyserling in Beaufort, South Carolina. That takes us to our sixth speaker today which is Mayor Johnny Miller, Fernandina Beach, Florida. Mayor?

14:33 Mayor Johnny Miller: Good afternoon, and thank you very much for the opportunity to speak. So, I spent 20 years in the Navy and I had the unique opportunity of doing maritime patrol flights in the Persian Gulf and I've seen firsthand the devastation that's caused by the day-to-day operations of offshore oil rigs. The oil slicks from the air are obvious. It's not always the deep part of the horizon. There's a day-to-day impact that this would have on our coastal community. I've also had the opportunity to hear the actual sounds of seismic blasting and what it sounds like when you look into it acoustically and the volume and the impact that has on the environment. After moving here 10 years ago, I became a bartender. I'm at Fortis Elvis bar and we're smacked up in the middle of our historic, beautiful downtown. And I see, day-to-day, the people that come in.

15:26 MM: When you talk about fishermen and numbers and impact on tourism, those aren't numbers to me, those are people. I know these boat captains, I know these hotel and small business operators. I know the bed and breakfast owners and I think that the esteemed Mayor from Beaufort's got it right. We can't stop a hurricane. We just went through Matthew. It was a very difficult time for us. We looked like we may take a direct impact and everything here would be gone. We can't prevent that. We can't prevent this. I've had the opportunity to know many of the people on this call right now and have the honor of walking the Halls of Congress, the Senate, the Department of the Interior and the White House and speak publicly on this issue several times. And I'm willing to travel to DC as many times it takes, but I would personally reach out to the President and ask him that if would leave a legacy that will protect my friends and neighbors from this ominous threat that would absolutely destroy my home and my community. Thank you.

16:23 Operator: Again, that was Mayor Johnny Miller, Fernandina Beach, Florida. And that takes us to our seventh speaker which is Bill Hamilton, President of the Homecomers Inc in St. Augustine, Florida and the South Anastasia Community Association. Bill?

16:40 Bill Hamilton: Thank you. My name is Bill Hamilton and I live at Crescent Beach on the Barrier Island just South of St. Augustine, Florida. We are at ground zero for global warming, climate change and sea level rise. My community is now in the beginning stages of recovery from the impacts of Hurricane Matthew. Dr. James Hansen, retired director of the NASA's Goddard Space Institute published a comprehensive study on climate change in March this year. In it, he made clear the urgency of the threat from the continued use of fossil fuels and I quote, "We have a global emergency. Fossil fuels, CO2 emissions should be reduced as rapidly as practical. There is a possibility, a real danger, that we'll hand young people and future generations, a climate system that is practically out of their control. Forced migrations, conflicts and economic consequences might make the planet ungovernable, threatening the fabric of civilization. The only metric that matters now, our only card that we have left to play, is to abandon all future fossil fuel projects including seismic testing and offshore drilling in the Atlantic basin." Thank you.

17:53 Operator: Again, that was Bill Hamilton, President of the Homecomers Inc, St. Augustine, Florida and the South Anastasia Community Association. And that takes us to our eighth speaker today, which is Dr. L. Kyle Horton of Kure Beach, North Carolina. Doctor?

18:12 Dr. Kyle Horton: I'm Dr. Kyle Horton and I'm speaking out today as a physician, an Atlantic Beach community resident, and a veterans and environmental policy advocate. I took an oath akin to the Latin Primum Non Nocere or, First Do No Harm. Unfortunately, we can't expect the same oath from oil and gas profiteers who want to inflict harm by turning our thriving East Coast tourism economy into a dirty industrialized oil based economy. This is why we're calling on the Obama Administration to stop plans for seismic air gun blasting and to permanently offshore drilling in the Atlantic, because the simple fact is, that drilling is dirty and dangerous and will cause harm. Where we've drilled, we've spilled, and where we've spilled we've killed. Not just marine life, but workers.

19:00 DH: I know this more deeply than most because I lost a member of my extended family when the Deep Water Horizon exploded in the Gulf. He never got to meet his grandchildren because we needed to fuel our dirty addiction to fossil fuels. This is why I'm calling on the President to first do no harm. I'm asking that he protect my patients with chronic diseases like heart disease and asthma that will only be worsened by climate change. I'm asking that he protect small beach communities like mine, with only 2000 winter residents but that's swelled ten-fold in population with a thriving tourism based economy. I'm calling on him to permanently protect the 1.4 million jobs on the East Coast that depend on pristine beaches and recreation tourism and fishing industries. So my message today is first do no harm Mr. President, and I thank you for your time. That concludes my statement.

19:53 Operator: Again that was Dr. L. Kyle Horton of Kure Beach, North Carolina. And that takes us to our ninth speaker today which is Vicki T. Clark, President of the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce. Vicki?

20:07 Vicki T Clark: Thank you. Offshore oil drilling and seismic testing are a threat to Cape May County's economy which is dependent on a \$6 billion beach and boardwalk industry, providing 57% of job opportunities in our area. Cape May, New Jersey is one of the top 10 birding hot spots in the world, and our commercial fishing industry is the second largest on the East Coast. Offshore oil drilling and seismic testing would be devastating to the residents of Cape May County and the millions of visitors that we host every year. The risks far outweigh the cost and we call on the

President to preserve our pristine coastline. Thank you.

20:50 Operator: Again, that was Vicki T. Clark, President of the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce. Now, let's proceed to our last speaker today, which is Diane Hanson, Council Member of Dewey Beach, Delaware. Diane?

21:02 Diane Hanson: Thank you. I hope they saved the best for the last here. [chuckle] Anyway, I'm Diane Hanson, I'm from a small coastal town in Delaware called Dewey Beach, Delaware. I was mayor until about a month ago when I relinquished it. I had been in office as mayor for six years and a council member for 10, and I decided 10 was probably enough. Well, that remains to be seen. Dewey Beach, along with six other towns in Delaware, has a resolution opposing both offshore drilling and seismic air gun blasting in the Atlantic. We definitely supported this position and it is supported by over 40 local and state elected officials in Delaware and other States. Our Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Congressman John Carney who will become our governor most likely in a little while, Senators Tom Carper and Chris Coons, and our current Governor Jack Markell.

21:58 DH: The whole state is pretty much in favor of no seismic testing and no oil drilling. The reason is we are renowned for our pristine beaches and actually won the five star beach award from the Natural Resource Defense Council over the last five years, and then for some reason they stopped doing that, but I think our waters are still very, very clean. Our tourism industry employs over 40,000 people and contributes over three billion to the State coffers, so this is of vital importance, not only in Dewey Beach, for the entire state, and we are very acutely aware of the value of the ocean and the many tourists that it brings to our State, it would actually be devastating to the County and the State economy if oil drilling were to occur or seismic testing even were to occur.

22:44 DH: If you have some dolphins that wash ashore in the middle of the tourism season that could kill the tourism for quite a period of time. Our resolutions opposing oil and gas development are permanent and President Obama has the power to make the Atlantic's current protection permanent too. We urge him to do so and as one of the other speakers said, this would be a wonderful legacy for him to leave to the United States as he begins to leave office. But bottom line is we do not want seismic air gun blasting, or offshore drilling off our coast. Not now, and not ever. Thank you.

23:19 AF: Again, that was Diane Hanson, Council Member of Dewey Beach, Delaware. And that takes us to the Q&A portion of the call. I wanna emphasize that the Q&A period is for reporters only and I wanna bring the operator back on the line once again to explain how members of the media may ask questions. Operator?

23:38 Operator: Certainly. At this time if you would like to ask a question please press star then one on your touch tone phone. If you decide to withdraw your question please press star then two to remove yourself from the list. Please limit yourself to one question and a single follow-up. If you need to ask an additional question please know that you may press star one to rejoin the queue. This time we'll pause momentarily to assemble our roster.

24:05 AF: And I'd also like to mention that we'll be joined by Franz Matzner the Director of the Natural Resources Defense Council's Beyond Oil program and he will be joining us for the Q&A

period. And while were waiting for our first question I wanna sure you know where you can find today's media briefer. You can find that on the web at www.stophedrill.org, again, that's www.stophedrill.org. Okay, operator, let's begin with our first question.

24:38 Operator: Certainly. The first question is from Jennifer Dlouhy with Bloomberg. Please go ahead.

24:44 Jennifer Dlouhy: Thanks for doing the call and taking my question. This is really profound and clear. I was just really hoping that the two of you especially could put into perspective where we are politically on this, what the dynamic is. Obviously, we're in the final months in Obama's administration, I'm wondering if you've had outreach to the Clinton campaign and what your long term political outlook is for this?

25:11 CD: Frank, do you wanna take that?

25:13 FK: Sure. So I'm going to have to limit my response to the broader answer to stay within the non electoral space 'cause none of our organizations here are representing C4 Action Funds or anything like that. So with that, I think the fact is is that we are coming to the close of the Obama administration and they have made very clear that they have not stopped... Closed up shop and they are continuing to make the kind of bold President setting, big decisions that have been the hallmark, especially in the environmental and oceans and climate space of this administration. If anything, they're growing momentum to continue to do more. I think there's been a ground swell of opposition to off shore drilling. The pieces are all in place and the President is and the administration are keenly aware of what the expectation here is and the expectation is that this administration is not going to end on a note of turning over publicly held lands and resources for more dirty fuels. And that instead, there's a real opportunity here to grant communities and our climate a little a certainty.

26:49 JD: Thanks, Frank.

26:53 AF: And we wanna make sure that reporters on the line have a chance to pose their questions while we have all of today's speakers on the line in one place. So I want to bring the operator back on the line once again to explain how members of the media may ask a question. Operator?

27:09 Operator: Again as a reminder, if you would like to ask a question you may press star then one on your touch tone phone. To remove yourself from the queue you can press star then two. Again, it is star then one to ask a question.

27:26 AF: Thank you. And while were waiting for our next question we want to stress that you can find today's media briefer, you can find that on on the web at www.stophedrill.org. Again, that's www.stophedrill.org. A streaming audio replay of this news event will also be made available as of 5:00 PM Eastern Time today. Okay, operator, let's move on to our next question.

27:55 Operator: Yes, and that comes from Bruce Ritchie of POLITICO, Florida. Please go ahead.

28:00 Bruce Ritchie: Thank you very much. I'd like to ask the folks from Florida in particular but also the other States, what positions do you all think State officials should take or what actions could they do to try to influence the outcome of this issue?

28:22 CD: Johnny or Bill?

28:25 MM: Yeah. I can take that, can you hear me?

28:27 CD: Yep.

28:28 BR: Yes, What's your name?

28:28 MM: Okay. So locally, right now Jacksonville has the opportunity to become the largest municipalities to pass a resolution being opposed to off shore, drilling and off shore seismic blasting. That's coming up shortly as we've been trying to get on an agenda for a while, we think we probably have the votes, but that would go a long way. Most of the coast line, of the Atlantic coastline has already done this, the State of Florida, pretty much the whole coastline has done this as well. Oceana has done a great job of the Ask was in the White House in the meeting we were at that I wasn't in, but the second meeting that I was in they've said, "We asked you guys to get together with coastal communities and bring us some resolutions." And I saw them get a book set in front of them, the size of about two New York City Yellow Pages with a map on the front of the entire Eastern sea board with red dots which basically formed a red line that showed how opposed we are to this.

29:21 MM: As far as the State of Florida, as you know Patrick Murphy is up for election, he's been a strong proponent in stopping off shore drilling. So we'd hope that he'd gets support and locally, I would contact, Senator Bill Nelson has been a very big opponent. He's been fighting this battle since the James Watt years, he's the one that pointed out that we have a thing called Cape Canaveral here, some rockets have a tendency to fall into the water on purpose when the boosters fall so off shore rigs are not a good idea 'cause they can't be moved. So that took us off the cross hairs for drilling, but I can see Georgia from my house, so anything that happens in Georgia is gonna affect me and also we're still in the cross hairs for the off shore blasting as well.

30:00 CD: And that was Mayor Johnny Miller from Fernandina Beach.

30:04 BH: This is Bill Hamilton in St. Augustine and I'd just like to add that the City of St. Augustine was one of the first municipalities to pass a resolution against seismic testing and off shore drilling. And Kent St. Johns County has also signed that as well as the City of St. Augustine Beach. So we've been opposed to this from the very beginning and are committed politically and economically and socially as community associations to push this through and urge Obama to have this be his legacy and support the Atlantic basin.

30:43 BR: Thank you.

30:44 BH: Thank you.

30:46 CD: And just to add, this is Claire Douglass from Oceana, to what they said about resolutions prior. But, there's now 90% of all coastal communities from Cape May, New Jersey to Cape Canaveral, Florida have passed resolutions opposing off shore drilling and seismic air gun blasting and so this isn't just a few here and there this is a wide spread movement opposition.

31:12 BR: Thank you again.

31:13 Franz Matzner: And this is Franz Matzner, I'm just gonna weigh in one more time to emphasize something that Claire said earlier. And that, this is a sentiment that goes beyond the incredible opposition that we see from communities all along the coast. The NRDC and LCV just released some public opinion polling that really underscores that the majority of Americans, nationally, also would support President Obama permanently protecting the Arctic and the Atlantic. And when you look at the all the different demographics, this is a deeply held strong opinion, particularly among young people. So when we're talking about legacy in the future, this is something that from a local level all the way across the country, this is what people want for their publicly owned waters.

32:16 AF: Thank you, before we move to closing thoughts or closing statements, I just want to give reporters one last chance while we have everyone on the line today to pose a question. This is a great opportunity while we have all 10 speakers today, together here in one place. So I wanna bring the operator on the line once again to explain how members of the media may ask a question. Operator?

32:39 Operator: Yes. Again, if you would like to ask a question you may press star then one on your telephone keypad. To remove yourself from the queue you can press star then two. Again, it is star then one to ask a question.

32:53 AF: And while we're waiting for our next question, we wanna stress that you can find today's media briefer on the web at www.stopthedrill.org. Again, that's www.stopthedrill.org. A streaming audio replay of this news event will also be made available as of 5:00 PM Eastern Time today. Operator, do we have any additional questions at this time?

33:21 Operator: We do not have any questions at the moment.

33:24 AF: Okay. Well, we know some reporters will wanna take their questions offline, so at this point, we want to offer closing statements again, from Claire Douglass who is the Campaign Director for Oceana. Claire?

33:40 CD: Yes, thank you all for participating today. You've heard from the people up and down the coast. We all want to protect our unique cultures, our business, our communities and our friends and families. We now ask President Obama to finish the job and permanently protect the Atlantic from seismic air gun blasting and off shore drilling. Thank you all for joining us today.

34:03 AF: Thank you Claire. We wanna make sure that reporters on the line know where they can get more information about today's news conference. To connect with any of the speakers that you've heard from today and to get more information about today's news conference, you can contact Alex Frank at 703-276-3264. Again, that's Alex Frank at 703-276-3264. And as I said before, you can find today's media briefer on the web at www.stopthedrill.org, again, that's www.stopthedrill.org. A streaming audio replay of this news event will also be made available as of 5:00 PM Eastern Time today. Again, you've been listening to a news conference sponsored by the Natural Resource Defense Council, Oceana, Environment America and The League of Conservation Voters. I'd like to thank everyone for joining us today and that concludes today's news event. Thank you.

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