



CBS NEWS POLL  
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**AMERICANS CRITICIZE OIL SPILL CLEAN-UP EFFORTS**  
**June 1-3, 2010**

- Americans continue to give negative ratings to the Obama administration and especially BP for their handling of the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, the worst in the nation's history, and think both should be doing more to try and clean it up.
- More than half of Americans think BP will be successful in stopping the flow of oil. Of those, 63% think it will take a few months or even longer for that to happen.
- Support for increased offshore drilling in general has waned as oil continues to flow into the Gulf. More Americans now view the collapse of the rig and the oil spill as a broader problem with offshore drilling than they did last month.

**HANDLING THE SPILL: THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION AND BP**

Assessments of how the Obama administration is handling the oil spill are similar to last week: 38% of Americans now approve of the way the Obama administration is handling it, while more - 44% - disapprove. There is more widespread criticism for how BP, the oil company that leased the oil rig, is handling the oil spill. About seven in 10 disapprove of how BP is handling things, little changed since last week.

	<b>Handling of Gulf Oil Spill</b>			
	<u>Obama Admin.</u>		<u>BP</u>	
	Now	Last week	Now	Last week
Approve	38%	35%	21%	18%
Disapprove	44	45	68	70

Majorities of Americans think both the Obama administration (63%) and BP (70%) should be doing more to try and clean up the oil spill. About a quarter says each is doing all it can.

	<b>Should ... Be Doing More to Clean Up Oil Spill?</b>	
	<u>Obama Admin.</u>	<u>BP</u>
Yes, should be doing more	63%	70%
No, doing all it can	28	24

Americans of all partisan stripes disapprove of how BP has handled the oil spill and think they should be doing more to try and clean it up. As for the Obama administration, 55% of Democrats approve, but most (51%) also think they should be doing more to try and clean it. Republicans and independents disapprove of the Administration's handling of the spill and think they should be doing more.

## **WHEN WILL THE SPILL BE CLEANED UP?**

It's been more than six weeks since the explosion on the Deepwater Horizon oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico, and 56% of Americans think BP will ultimately be successful in stopping the flow of oil. Nearly three in 10 say BP will not be successful. Republicans express more confidence in BP than Democrats. Interviewing for this poll was conducted before BP reported it was able to place a containment cap on the damaged well.

### **Will BP Be Successful in Stopping the Flow of Oil?**

Yes	56%
No	29

Among those who think BP will be successful in stopping the flow of oil, 32% think that will happen in the next few weeks, but most – 63% - think it will take a few months or even longer.

### **When Will BP Be Able to Stop the Flow of Oil into the Gulf?**

(Among those who say BP will stop the flow of oil)

Next few weeks	32%
Next few months	49
Longer than that	14

## **OFFSHORE DRILLING**

Opposition to increased offshore drilling has inched up over the last few weeks. 51% now think the costs and risks of more drilling are too great, up from 46% last week, and 41% earlier in May. During the 2008 presidential campaign, most Americans favored increased offshore drilling.

### **Increased Offshore Oil Drilling?**

	Now	Last week	5/10/2010	8/2008
Favor	40%	45%	46%	62%
Risks too great	51	46	41	28

Also, more people now than last month see the collapse of the oil platform and the resulting oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico as an indication of a broader problem with offshore drilling, up 10 points since May. The number who views the spill as an isolated incident has dropped from 51% in early May to 45% today.

### **Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico**

	Now	5/10/2010
Isolated incident	45%	51%
Part of broader problem	45	35

Most Republicans view the spill as an isolated incident, while most Democrats think it is part of an overall problem with offshore drilling. 43% of independents say the spill is an isolated incident, down from 52% early last month.

## **PAYING ATTENTION TO THE OIL SPILL STORY**

More Americans are paying attention to the story now. The percentage of Americans who have heard or read "a lot" about the incident has risen to 67%, up from 56% in early May.

### Heard or Read About Gulf Spill

	Now	5/10/2010
A lot	67%	56%
Some	23	29
Not much/nothing	9	14

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This poll was conducted among a random sample of 960 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone June 1-3, 2010. Phone numbers were dialed from random digit dial samples of both standard land-line and cell phones. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher.

This poll release conforms to the Standards of Disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

**CBS News Poll**  
**Americans Criticize Oil Spill Clean-up Efforts**  
**June 1-3, 2010**

q1 Would you favor allowing increased drilling for oil and natural gas off the U.S. coast, or do you think the costs and risks are too great?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				May10c
	Total	*** Party ID ***			
	%	Rep	Dem	Ind	%
Favor	40	61	24	43	45
Costs & risks too great	51	28	69	48	46
DK/NA	9	11	7	9	9

q2 How much have you heard or read about the collapsed oil platform and oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico? A lot, some, not much, or nothing at all yet?

					May10b
A lot	67	75	67	63	56
Some	23	20	22	25	29
Not much	8	5	8	10	10
Nothing	1	0	1	2	4
DK/NA	1	0	2	0	1

q3 Do you think the recent oil platform collapse and oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico is most likely an isolated incident, or mostly an indication of a broader problem with offshore drilling?

Isolated incident	45	62	38	43	51
Broader problem	45	30	53	47	35
DK/NA	10	8	9	10	14

q4 Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Obama administration is handling the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico ?

Approve	38	15	55	36	35
Disapprove	44	69	28	44	45
DK/NA	18	16	17	20	20

q5 Do you approve or disapprove of the way BP, the company that owned the oil rig, is handling the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico ?

					May10c*
Approve	21	25	21	19	18
Disapprove	68	65	69	69	70
DK/NA	11	10	10	12	12

\*wording change: "...the company that **operated** the oil rig..."

q6 blank

q7 Do you think BP is doing all it can to try to clean up the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, or should it be doing more?

Doing all it can	24	29	19	25
Should be doing more	70	67	75	68
DK/NA	6	4	6	7

q8 Do you think the Obama administration is doing all it can to try to clean up the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, or should it be doing more?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
	*** Party ID ***			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Doing all it can	28	13	42	24
Should be doing more	63	79	51	66
DK/NA	9	8	7	10

q9 From what you've seen and heard, do you think BP will be successful in stopping the flow of oil caused by the oil platform collapse in the Gulf of Mexico -- or do you think they will not be successful?

Successful	56	70	51	51
Not successful	29	18	35	30
Depends (vol.)	5	4	4	7
DK/NA	10	8	10	12

q10 Do you think BP will be able to stop the flow of oil in the Gulf of Mexico in within the next few weeks, within the next few months, or will it take longer than that?

	** AMONG THOSE WHO SAID "SUCCESSFUL" IN Q9 **			
Next few weeks	32	48	23	27
Next few months	49	41	47	58
Longer than that	14	5	27	9
DK/NA	5	6	3	6

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	960	
Total Republicans	292	234
Total Democrats	306	352
Total Independents	362	374