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DEP HOSTS TECHNOLOGY REVIEW EVENT FOR INNOVATIVE SHORELINE CLEANUP

~Shoreline cleanup technologies evaluated by DEP officials~

PENSACOLA – Under the leadership of Governor Charlie Crist and continuing its commitment to recovery efforts in the Gulf of Mexico, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) today hosted an innovative technology review event. The event evaluated 10 different technologies that may offer additional capabilities to clean oil impacted beaches along Florida's coastline. The companies that participated in the evaluation event utilize a wide range of technologies including absorbent powder, beach screening devices and surfactants, substances that reduce the thickness of liquid products to enable an easier cleanup.

"Today's event served as a great way to evaluate solutions on actual impacts along Florida's beaches," said Florida Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Michael W. Sole. "We will continue to exhaust every tool to ensure the best possible outcome for Florida's environment, economy and quality of life."

The various technologies were evaluated, at the event, in the areas of effectiveness and efficiency of clean-up operation, ease of deployment, efficiency of disposal and scalability. Representatives from DEP's Division of Waste Management served as evaluators. In addition, there were observers from DEP's Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems, DEP's Bureau of Emergency Response as well as the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Prior to today's event, an initial evaluation was conducted by a team of DEP staff looking for solutions that would not cause harm to the environment or human health, appeared to be feasible and effective, available in sufficient quantities to be valuable and would not interfere with other cleanup technologies.

On May 14, 2010, DEP established a workgroup to research and review innovative technology submissions. Citizens and companies with suggestions, ideas or products can submit their ideas to Innovative.Technology@dep.state.fl.us to be evaluated for use in Florida. Since the establishment of the workgroup more than 1,100 emails have been received with more than 400 product submissions. DEP is currently planning another

technology review event in the coming weeks which will test bioremediation products, including microbes.

For more information on Florida's response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, visit www.deepwaterhorizonflorida.com, follow www.Twitter.com/FLDEPalert or call the Florida Oil Spill Information Line at 888-337-3569.

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