



Lessons learned from Katrina: Oil, gas and society

Aug. 22 forum at Rice University focuses on hurricane preparations

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What steps have been taken to ensure that enough gas is available for residents to evacuate when a hurricane approaches?

That's one of the lessons learned from last year's hurricane season that will be discussed at 4:30 p.m. Aug. 22 during a forum at Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy titled "Oil, Gas and Society: Hurricane Preparations After Katrina."

Experts from business, government and academia will look back at what worked -- and what didn't -- and discuss the policies that are being implemented to minimize the impact of severe storms in the Gulf of Mexico, including construction specifications for oil rigs that can withstand hurricane winds, and preparations for flooding. Speakers will include Kenny Lang, BP's vice president for Gulf of Mexico Production; Chris Oynes, the U.S. Department of Interior's regional director for Gulf of Mexico, Minerals Management Service; William King, managing partner in the Houston office of Linebarger Goggan Blair and Sampson L.L.P. and board member of Governor Perry's Task Force on Evacuation, Transportation and Logistics; and Philip Bedient, Rice University's Herman and George R. Brown Professor of Civil Environmental Engineering.

The program, hosted by the Baker Institute Energy Forum and Rice's Energy and Environmental Systems Institute, will be held in the Kelly International Conference Facility at Baker Hall. To attend, R.S.V.P. by e-mail (bipprsvp@rice.edu) or fax (713-348-5993).