

BP Oil Spill settlement discussed in Tallulah

Yvonne Lewis
Reporter

Attorney Brian Blackwell, of Blackwell and Associates, came to Tallulah to speak with local businesses about claims stemming from the April 2010 BP Oil Spill. Blackwell is working with the Houston based law firm of Williams Kherker to assist those businesses who, while not on the gulf, could have still been potentially affected by the disaster. "The mindset is to bring information to those businesses and nonprofits located away from the core of the disaster," Blackwell said. "Businesses simply need to go to visit our website to determine if they meet the criteria to be eligible for a claim.

That website, www.myspillclaim.com, has a simple procedure for those interested to see if they are eligible by determining what zone their business is in, and whether or not they "pass" or "fail" the Settlement's V-Shaped Revenue Test. The V shape test actually mirrors the letter V. A claimant must establish a benchmark with regard to pre-spill monthly gross revenue between May 2007 and December 2009 (One top of the V). Next the claimant will compare the benchmark numbers against monthly gross revenue between May and December 2010, which is considered the "loss period (middle of the 'V')". From there, the loss period will be compared to monthly gross revenue between May and December 2011, which is considered the upturn period

(other top of the "V"). A claimant who is in either Zone B or C can show an aggregate decline of 8.5% or those in Zone D who can show a decline of 15% in total revenues over a period of three consecutive months in the Loss Period as compared to the same months in the Benchmark Period satisfies the downturn step of the test.

Per the Settlement Agreement, this V-Shaped Revenue Pattern establishes that all of the claimant's losses were caused by the Oil Spill. The theory behind the V-Shaped Revenue Pattern is that a claimant who can show both a downturn and an upturn was impacted by the Oil Spill. This relates to BP's position that the Oil Spill impacted the Gulf States between May 2010 and December 2010. The theory is that a claimant who didn't suffer a downturn and upturn either wasn't impacted by the Oil Spill, or was impacted by other factors.

The Settlement Agreement includes other causation tests besides the V-Shaped Revenue Pattern. Claimants who do not meet the V-Shaped Revenue Pattern may still qualify for compensation, and should contact a qualified attorney and CPA firm to see if they meet the other causation tests included in the Settlement Agreement.

If you believe your business might be eligible for a claim, please visit the website www.myspillclaim.com or you may contact Brian Blackwell's office at 225-769-2462 or the Williams Kherker law firm at 855-738-2252.



STAFF PHOTO YVONNE LEWIS

DOGS, CAT DUMPED IN DITCH

Residents on East Bear Lake Road noticed the remains of two dogs and one cat in an area filled with water from a culvert. Anyone having information on this animal abuse, or any animal abuse, please contact the Madison Journal at 574-1404.

From chronic sinusitis to nasal congestion to tonsillitis, Fred Lorenz, M.D., treats problems of the ears, nose and throat. New to Vicksburg, Dr. Lorenz is board certified in otolaryngology and has more than 28 years' experience taking good care of his patients, from children to seniors. Same- and next-day appointments are often available. Call today at 601-883-6088.

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