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**New Oil Pollution Deskbook Highlights OPA Rules****Environmental Law Client Alert**

*This Alert provides only general information and should not be relied upon as legal advice. This Alert may be considered attorney advertising under court and bar rules in certain jurisdictions.*

*For more information, contact your Patton Boggs LLP attorney or the author listed below.*

**Russell V. Randle**  
[rrandle@pattonboggs.com](mailto:rrandle@pattonboggs.com)  
[m](#)

The second anniversary of the April 20, 2010 *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill highlights the big legal risks that come from an oil spill, whether at wells such as BP's Macondo well, or at pipelines, terminals, storage tanks, or on vessels, as well as during cleanups.

Since the enactment of the Oil Pollution Act (OPA) in 1990, more than two decades ago, United States Coast Guard and Environmental Protection Agency rules have fleshed out OPA's requirements and the federal courts have interpreted many of its key provisions. Congressional gridlock makes any substantial OPA rewrite unlikely any time soon. Thus, courts, agencies and regulated parties must contend with current laws to address potential liabilities and take preventive measures.

In March, the Environmental Law Institute (ELI) published the *Oil Pollution Deskbook, 2d Edition*, written by Patton Boggs partner Russ Randle, who also wrote the original 1991 *OPA Deskbook* for ELI. The new book provides a detailed and easily accessible review of OPA's requirements, agency rules, and cases, and an overview informed by the *Deepwater Horizon* disaster and its aftermath. The book is tailored for lawyers and judges starting their research to address specific cases and client problems. More information about the book is available at <http://www.eli.org/news.cfm>

Patton Boggs has represented numerous companies, large and small, in addressing OPA and Clean Water Act issues, clients including vessel owners, pipelines, drillers, refiners, and distributors, as well as parties addressing clean-up responsibilities and those seeking to recover from such damages. Several recent articles addressing related OPA issues may be found by clicking [here](#).

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