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## Have We Learned from the BP Disaster? Why It's Important

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TIPS Disaster Preparedness and Response Initiative is very timely in today's world. It seems like weekly, if not daily, there are stories relevant to this TIPS Initiative. For example, the TIPS mid-year meeting in New Orleans on February 3, 2012, will be focusing on Disasters caused by Negligent Acts, particularly focusing on the BP oil spill. In the linked NY Times article (click on the title to access the article) the author states how world consumers will become more dependent on North and South America to satisfy their growing thirst for crude oil.

Certainly, if this prediction is true, lessons learned from the BP oil spill will be very important in light of this prediction of future oil drilling in North America, so future disasters may be avoided. According to a report by the Paris-based International Energy Agency, the United States, despite the slowdown in oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico after the Deepwater Horizon disaster last year and declining production in Alaska, will produce an additional 500,000 barrels a day largely from expanded drilling in oil shale fields in North Dakota and Texas.