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Monday, 26 July 2010

Dear Kelston Primary School students,

I was visiting one of BP's petrol stations recently when I happened to be flicking through the Listener and came upon a selection of letters your students wrote to Tony Hayward. I read these with great interest and wanted to write to you on behalf of BP to thank you for your feedback.

BP cares very much about what you think and I would be very happy to receive and read the letters personally, if you would like to send them to me.

Like everyone, the team at BP in New Zealand has been really upset by the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. BP has taken full responsibility for dealing with the spill and is doing all it can to stop the leak, to clean up the spill, and to return the environment - the beaches and the sea - to the state it was in before the accident. This will take a lot of time and money, but we have the very best experts in the world working with us and we are determined to return the environment to its original state. We are also grateful to the thousands of volunteers who are giving their time to help clean it up.

Kiwis love the environment, and it has been really hard for all of us to watch what is going on over there and be unable to directly assist. Many New Zealanders have written to us offering advice or ideas about how to fix the well, and we are helping to pass these ideas on to BP's international panel of experts in the Gulf of Mexico.

BP is trying to keep everyone informed about what is going on in the Gulf, and you can find a lot of information and regular updates on our website www.bp.com.

I do know that my BP colleagues in the Gulf are doing all they can and I can only wish them all the best as they continue to work to try to stop the spill and clean up all damage. I also know BP will do everything in its power to make sure it never happens again.

Thank you again for your letters. BP values your feedback and if you would like me to come in and talk to your class about this some more, I'd welcome the opportunity to meet with you all.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mike McGuinness', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mike McGuinness
Managing Director
BP Oil NZ Limited