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Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes

No |X|

press release

26 February, 2012

JOINT STATEMENT BY BP AND THE PLAINTIFFS' STEERING COMMITTEE REGARDING MDL 2179

New Orleans, USA - BP and the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee (PSC) confirmed that the U.S. District Court has today adjourned the start of the Deepwater Horizon Multi-District Litigation 2179 civil trial by one week, until Monday, March 5th. This adjournment is intended to allow BP and the PSC more time to continue settlement discussions and attempt to reach an agreement.

BP and the PSC are working to reach agreement to fairly compensate people and businesses affected by the Deepwater Horizon accident and oil spill.

There can be no assurance that these discussions will lead to a settlement agreement. A further announcement will be made as appropriate.

Further enquiries:

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For the PSC:

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

BP p.l.c.
(Registrant)

Dated: 27 February, 2012

/s/ D. J. PEARL
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D. J. PEARL
Deputy Company Secretary