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Jim Ray is Manager of Environmental Ecology and Response for Shell Global Solutions (US) Inc., located at Westhollow Technology Center in Houston, Texas. Dr. Ray received his Ph.D. from Texas A&M in biological oceanography prior to joining Shell Oil Company in 1974. Since that time, Dr. Ray has had a diverse career involving oil and gas industry environmental issues throughout the lower 48 states and Alaska. The primary focal point of his technical interests have been in the fate and effect of discharges and releases from offshore oil and gas operations.

He has chaired numerous American Petroleum Institute committees for over twenty years. These committees were the primary focal point for much of the industries offshore environmental research, including all of the work on the fate and effects of drilling muds, cuttings, and produced water in the marine environment. He served as a member on the National Research Council panel that published the report on drilling discharges in the marine environment. He also represented the industry as chairman of the 1995 International Oil Spill Conference.

He is currently Chairman of the Offshore Operators Committee "Environmental Sciences Subcommittee", which oversees environmental research issues in the Gulf of Mexico. He also is the Research Coordinator for the industries Synthetic Based Muds Research Program, and serves as Program Manager for the Synthetic Based Muds Seafloor Monitoring Program.