

### *Claims Administrator Resumes Processing of All BEL Claims*

- 1. *Removal of the Hold on Certain Business Economic Loss Claims.*** On February 12, 2013, at the direction of the federal court in New Orleans, the Claims Administrator placed a hold on the processing of Business Economic Loss (“BEL”) claims (including Start-Up Business Claims and Failed Business Claims) from the construction, agricultural and professional services industries. The Court now has instructed the Claims Administrator to continue to process those claims. As a result, we have resumed the review of all such claims pursuant to the guidelines previously adopted by the Claims Administrator. The Court has not yet issued a determination on the request by BP to reconsider those guidelines.
- 2. *How This Affects Deadlines Applicable to Pending Claims.*** While these BEL claims were on a processing hold, we suspended the running of the deadlines for claimants and BP to respond to Notices we had sent out before the hold or to act on claims on appeal. These included the deadlines for:
  - (a) Claimants to accept an award in an Eligibility Notice;
  - (b) Claimants to ask for re-review or reconsideration after an Eligibility or Denial Notice;
  - (c) Claimants to respond to an Incompleteness Notice;
  - (d) Claimants and BP to appeal a final Eligibility Notice; and
  - (e) Claimants and BP to submit materials required during an appeal on a claim.

All these deadlines begin anew on March 4, 2013, for any BEL claim subject to the hold, if the deadline had not expired before the hold. For example, a claimant with a final Notice issued on a held claim before February 12, 2013, whose 30-day deadline to appeal had not passed before February 12, 2013, now has a fresh 30-day period from March 4, 2013, or until April 3, 2013, to appeal. This does not affect any other deadlines under the Settlement Agreement or any claims other than the types of BEL claims that were on hold.

- 3. *Questions.*** If you have any questions regarding anything in this Alert, including what deadline now applies to a claim that had been subject to the processing hold, email us at [Questions@dhecc.com](mailto:Questions@dhecc.com), call us at 1-800-353-1262, or visit a Claimant Assistance Center. Law firms should get in touch with their Law Firm Contacts for help.