



BILL SCHUETTE
ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF MICHIGAN

August 14, 2015

Ms. Valerie Corr Hanserd
Director of Government and Public Affairs
BP America, Chicago

Sent via email
Valerie.Corr@bp.com

Dear Ms. Corr Hanserd,

An incident at BP's Whiting Indiana refinery has allegedly caused Michigan's and other Midwestern states' recent gasoline price spike. While retail outlets are the direct interface with Michigan consumers, experience shows that much of the volatility in gasoline pricing originates farther up the supply chain. We have seen jumps in wholesale prices, and reports in the media suggest that the issue at the BP refinery in Whiting contributed to a lower supply that raised wholesale prices.

Continued fluctuations of retail gasoline prices in Michigan have consistently triggered consumer complaints to my office. Apart from complaints of price gouging and suspicions of price fixing, many constituents express disbelief that reported problems at various refineries, as is the recent case, can cause such direct and immediate effects at the pump. Moreover, some members of your industry have simply said that there are so many factors that affect gasoline pricing that it is hard to provide clarity to the general public.

Given the significant impact that these factors have on Michigan consumers and our economy, we need to do a better job of making the factors that affect gasoline pricing more transparent. Consequently, I'm asking that BP explain what occurred at the BP Whiting Refinery, as well as an estimated return to service and additional information about why this immediately led to a price spike throughout Michigan.

We realize that this market is complex and many factors are in play. That is exactly why we need forthright answers that will provide clarity.

Please contact my staff at (517) 373-1160 so that we can discuss the situation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Schuette".

Bill Schuette
Attorney General

cc: G. Grant Doescher, Exxon Mobile
John Hines, Shell Oil Company
William Schedel, Jr., Marathon Petroleum Company