



## Jason French

Director of Government and Public Affairs at Cheniere Energy

Houston, Texas Area | Oil & Energy

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### Jason French's Overview

**Current** Director of Government and Public Affairs at **Cheniere Energy**

**Past** Government and Public Affairs Director - Gulf of Mexico at BP  
 Government and Public Affairs Director - OK and KS at BP  
 External Affairs Lead at Deepwater Horizon Response  
 see all

**Education** University of Louisville

**Connections** 500+ connections

### Jason French's Summary

- Over 14 years experience in government and public affairs as a corporate lobbyist, spokesperson, campaign manager and public policy advisor
- Extensive experience representing heavy industry and energy interests- including interacting with legislatures, municipal governments, regulatory agencies and NGO's
- Strong presentation and communication skills – including experience in media relations, rapid response media efforts, and crisis management
- Over 7 years experience managing direct reports
- Proven ability to communicate policy issues to a broad range of stakeholders and build legislative, grassroots and employee coalitions

Specialties: Media relations, crisis communications, crisis management, team management, corporate philanthropy, state and local lobbying, stakeholder outreach, campaign management

ICS\NIMS, Hazwoper Certified, Helicopter Underwater Egress Training (HUET) Certified

### Jason French's Experience

#### Director of Government and Public Affairs

##### Cheniere Energy

Public Company; 201-500 employees; LNG; Oil & Energy industry  
 November 2011 – Present (2 years 9 months) | Houston, Texas Area

#### Government and Public Affairs Director - Gulf of Mexico

##### BP

Public Company; 10,001+ employees; BP; Oil & Energy industry  
 March 2011 – November 2011 (9 months) | Houston, Texas Area

- Provided first-line government and public affairs support to BP's Gulf of Mexico operations.
- Liaison to BP's Gulf Coast Restoration Organization, federal affairs and regulatory staff.
- Worked cooperatively with GCRO and Operations to allocate a multi-million dollar philanthropy budget across the Gulf region.
- Regularly interacted with elected officials and civic leaders impacted by the Deepwater Horizon spill.
- Provided counsel to senior management regarding legislative and public affairs threats and opportunities along the Gulf coast.
- Represent BP to state-based, regional and national trade organizations.

#### Government and Public Affairs Director - OK and KS

##### BP

Public Company; 10,001+ employees; BP; Oil & Energy industry  
 April 2009 – February 2011 (1 year 11 months) | Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Area

- Represented BP to state and local government officials in Oklahoma and Kansas and provided counsel to senior management regarding legislative threats and opportunities
- Managed contract lobbyist activities
- Worked collaboratively with trade associations, chambers of commerce and non-profit organizations
- Directed all corporate philanthropic funds and political contributions in OK and KS
- Advised on local messaging regarding promotion and expanded use of natural gas.

#### External Affairs Lead

##### Deepwater Horizon Response

April 2010 – November 2010 (8 months) | Houma, Louisiana

- Served as the PIO/Liaison Section Chief in the Houma Incident Response Center for first month following the explosion of the Deepwater Horizon.
- Advised Incident Command on media and government relations strategy, conducted media interviews, prepped senior personnel for media and public engagements, assigned and managed contractors in the field, and managed all Liaison\PIO personnel.
- Assigned to Grand Isle, Louisiana as the area's Public Information Officer and Government Affairs Liaison in late May 2010. Managed a team of 10+, represented BP in town hall gatherings, conducted international, national and local media interviews, worked with local elected officials and served as the company's primary spokesperson to one of the Gulf's most impacted communities.

- Supported Operations in a variety of ways outside of the traditional public affairs role – including negotiating land deals, identifying boats and other resources for use in the operation and handling contractor complaints.

**Director of Government and Public Affairs - Mid-Atlantic**

**CSX**

Public Company; 10,001+ employees; CSX; Transportation/Trucking/Railroad industry  
April 2006 – March 2009 (3 years) | Baltimore, Maryland Area

- Represented company to local and state government officials
- Monitored legislation, managed contract lobbyists and outside counsel, and worked with company leadership to develop legislative and communications strategy
- Assisted in creating and managing communications and lobbying strategy for CSX's National Gateway Project
- Facilitated and coordinated corporate response to community concerns and issues
- Managed and targeted corporate philanthropic funds and political contributions
- Received cash "Spot Award" from company's Executive Team for handling the corporate response to a series of train accidents in Baltimore – January 2008

**Southeast Field Director**

**GoRail \ Go21**

February 2005 – April 2006 (1 year 3 months) | Alexandria, Virginia

- Lobbied and activated "grasstop" stakeholders in the southeast United States as part of national campaign to promote investment in the freight rail industry
- Maintained relationships with a large and diverse network of political officeholders, business leaders and members of the academic community

**Campaign Manager - Coordinated Campaign**

**Kentucky Democratic Party**

July 2004 – December 2004 (6 months) | Louisville, Kentucky

- Managed all aspects of a party effort that provided field support for U.S. Senate, Congressional and local campaigns – including media, budgeting and political strategy
- Supervised field staff of 20
- Hired and supervised the efforts of political and media consultants

**Metro Council - Caucus Director**

**Louisville Metro Government**

Government Agency; 5001-10,000 employees; Government Administration industry  
January 2003 – June 2004 (1 year 6 months) | Louisville, Kentucky Area

- Chief political strategist for majority caucus on the Louisville Metro Council
- Advised leadership and caucus members on public policy and political activities
- Authored legislation and instrumental in brokering compromises and passage of major legislation
- Supervised all caucus staff – including the communications office

**Field Director**

**U.S. Senate Campaign**

Government Agency; 1001-5000 employees; Legislative Office industry  
December 2000 – November 2002 (2 years) | Lexington, Kentucky Area

- Served as one of ten campaign co-chairs, alongside 2 former Governors and former United States Senator
- Managed field operations across the state with specific focus on Jefferson County where candidate won 64% of the vote

Jason French's Skills & Expertise

Crisis Communications	Crisis Management	Media Relations	Team Management	Philanthropy	HAZWOPER	Non-profits
Leadership	Politics	Training	Public Affairs	Staff Development	Strategic Communications	Policy
Strategic Planning	Government	Public Speaking	Emergency Management	Public Policy		

View All (27) Skills

Jason French's Education

**University of Louisville**

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science

1996 – 2000

Member of University of Louisville Board of Trustees \ Student Government Association President, Louisville, Kentucky; (April 1999 – May 2000) - Allocated and managed a budget of \$600,000+, supervised a paid staff of 10, and interacted regularly with community leaders

Jason French's Additional Information

Groups and Associations:

-  Gulf of Mexico Foundation - Board of Directors
-  BP
-  BP Alumni - connect and go beyond
-  Community Investment Professionals
-  Crisis Communication
-  Kentucky Governor's Scholars Program
-  MC252 Responders
-  Midstream – Pipelines



Order of Kentucky Colonels



The Grassroots Forum



U.S. Government Relations, Lobbying and Public Affairs (Lobbyist - Lobbyists)



UofL Alumni Association

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