

From: Aoki, Steven [Steven.Aoki@nnsa.doe.gov]  
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2010 6:18:56 PM  
To: OConnor, Rod  
CC: Hunter, Tom  
Subject: FW: Follow-up press question on Gulf

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Rod,

Do you have any guidance on an approach to take to press queries about the use of our lab computers to respond to the Deepwater Horizon leak? There are some potential sensitivities vis-à-vis our relationship with BP and access to BP-supplied information.

As a strawman, what I'd suggest would be:

-- National laboratory scientists and supercomputers are being used to model conditions in the leaking well, to assess the stability of the damaged structure, and to support the evaluation of alternative courses of action to stop the leak.

-- The DOE labs are providing independent validation of certain calculations performed by BP, building confidence in the results.

-- BP remains responsible for taking action to stop the leak. We are providing them with the best possible scientific and engineering advice, drawing on our own laboratories and mobilizing experts from industry and academic sources.

(If asked about flow rates from the well)

-- Estimating the rate at which oil is being discharged is a complicated problem. An accurate computer calculation will depend critically on information that we currently do not have about the internal state of the well and the devices attached to it, e.g. the blowout preventer.

Welcome any comments or guidance.

Steve Aoki

-----Original Message-----

From: Mueller, Stephanie  
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2010 5:58 PM  
To: Aoki, Steven  
Subject: Follow-up press question on Gulf

Steve,

We've been asked by a reporter for more information on what the DOE lab supercomputers are being used for in the Gulf. I've sent our summary, but if you have any additional information you could send that would be much appreciated.

Thanks again for your help.

Stephanie

Stephanie Mueller  
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