

From: Marcia K McNutt/DO/USGS/DOI
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 4:29:58 PM
To: "Lee-Ashley, Matt" <[REDACTED]>
CC: "Wade, Anne-Berry" <abwade@usgs.gov>; "Wainman, Barbara W" <bwainman@usgs.gov>; "Cesnik, Catherine M" <[REDACTED]>; "Rodriguez, Julie" <[REDACTED]>; "Barkoff, Kendra" <[REDACTED]>; "Hines, Vic" <vhines@usgs.gov>; "Taylor, Willie R" <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: RE:

OK -

I am now off my conference calls and have got my team to agree on what we are going to produce for the announcement on Thursday. I want to give you a heads up on this so that you can think about how to message it.

My concern in working with the plume flow group is that depending on which person is giving the estimate, they can be all over the board. So the uncertainty at the high end is really large, and in fact unrealistically so. But the group was perfectly willing to admit that if we put out a range of flow rates that are "allowed" by their data, even ones that are unrealistically large, the media will immediately grab ahold of the largest value and use it as a headline.

So I have their agreement that what we will do is take the USGS result and the result from the flow modeling group, and provide our best estimate of the minimum rate of release of the Deepwater Horizon well. So for example, I don't have the exact numbers yet, but we might say something like, "Multiple lines of scientific evidence agree that the rate of release is at least 14,000 to 20,000 barrels of oil per day." We believe that a statement like this will be much more helpful to emergency responders than the current 5000 barrels per day, is honest, and yet is not as alarmist as the 70,000 barrels that has been picked up by the media and is demonstrably wrong.

Marcia

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From: "Lee-Ashley, Matt" <[REDACTED]>
To: "Wade, Anne-Berry" <abwade@usgs.gov>
Cc: "Wainman, Barbara W" <bwainman@usgs.gov>; "Cesnik, Catherine M" <[REDACTED]>; "Rodriguez, Julie" <[REDACTED]>; "Barkoff, Kendra" <[REDACTED]>; "McNutt, Marcia K" <mcnutt@usgs.gov>; "Taylor, Willie R" <[REDACTED]>
Date: 05/25/2010 03:46 PM
Subject: Re: RE:

We need to be more precise if we are able.

From: Anne-Berry Wade <abwade@usgs.gov>
To: Lee-Ashley, Matt
Cc: Wainman, Barbara W; Cesnik, Catherine M; Rodriguez, Julie; Barkoff, Kendra; McNutt, Marcia K; Taylor, Willie R; Hines, Vic
Sent: Tue May 25 15:41:28 2010
Subject: Re: RE:

It might be best to say "we hope to have something by the end of the week"

A.B. Wade
Public Affairs Officer (Acting)
703-648-4483 office
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For Eastern Region issues contact Hannah Hamilton

From: "Lee-Ashley, Matt" <[REDACTED]>
To: "Rodriguez, Julie" <[REDACTED]>, "McNutt, Marcia K" <mcnutt@usgs.gov>
Cc: "Wade, Anne-Berry" <abwade@usgs.gov>, "Wainman, Barbara W" <bwainman@usgs.gov>, "Cesnik, Catherine M" <[REDACTED]>, "Willie_Taylor" <[REDACTED]>
Date: 05/25/2010 03:37 PM
Subject: Re: RE:

Can we say Thursday publicly? That means we would have to be ready to announce it Thursday.

From: Rodriguez, Julie
To: McNutt, Marcia K; Lee-Ashley, Matt
Cc: Wade, Anne-Berry; Wainman, Barbara W; Cesnik, Catherine M; Barkoff, Kendra; Taylor, Willie R
Sent: Tue May 25 15:33:33 2010
Subject: RE: RE:

FANTASTIC!!! Thanks.

From: Marcia K McNutt [mailto:mcnutt@usgs.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 3:33 PM
To: Lee-Ashley, Matt
Cc: Wade, Anne-Berry; Wainman, Barbara W; Cesnik, Catherine M; Rodriguez, Julie; Barkoff, Kendra; Taylor, Willie R
Subject: RE: RE:

I am on the phone with the plume team now. I am being SO MEAN. They will have a number by

Thursday am.

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From: "Lee-Ashley, Matt" <[REDACTED]>
To: "McNutt, Marcia K" <mcnutt@usgs.gov>, "Cesnik, Catherine M" <[REDACTED]>, "Barkoff, Kendra" <[REDACTED]>
Cc: "Rodriguez, Julie" <[REDACTED]>, "Taylor, Willie R" <[REDACTED]>, "Wainman, Barbara W" <bwainman@usgs.gov>
Date: 05/25/2010 03:26 PM
Subject: RE: RE:

We need to be able to provide an update to the press on when the first estimate will be available.
Marcia: when will that first estimate from the FRTG be available for public announcement?

Thanks,
Matt

From: Marcia K McNutt [mailto:mcnutt@usgs.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 12:19 PM
To: Cesnik, Catherine M; Lee-Ashley, Matt; Barkoff, Kendra
Cc: Rodriguez, Julie; Taylor, Willie R
Subject: RE:

Here you go, incorporating edits from me and Catherine.

Marcia

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From: "Cesnik, Catherine M" <[REDACTED]>
To: "Rodriguez, Julie" <[REDACTED]>
Cc: "McNutt, Marcia K" <mcnutt@usgs.gov>, "Taylor, Willie R" <[REDACTED]>
Date: 05/25/2010 11:43 AM
Subject: RE:

Marcia: for your review.

Rather than, "BP has been left out of this process." You may wish to say: BP is providing their data to the FRTG, BP is not involved in calculating FRTG flow rate range estimates.

Typo alert?, "Since day one, deployment of resources and tactics by the government has been based on a worst-case scenario, not an inexact { Typo – should be exact? } number. "

Also, you may wish to add "range" to the flow rate deliverable. For example, The FRTG is leading a government-wide effort to determine oil flow rates RANGES from the BP oil spill.

When we were creating briefings on Thursday and Friday, we kept trying to add "range" to the estimate so that we could keep expectations reasonable. The rate of oil flowing from the well seems to be varying hour to hour, day to day, week to week.

Catherine

Catherine Cesnik

U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary

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202-208-[REDACTED] office | 202-208-6032 fax | [REDACTED]

From: Rodriguez, Julie

Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 11:25 AM

To: Cesnik, Catherine M
Cc: McNutt, Marcia K; Taylor, Willie R
Subject: RE:

Thanks.

Attached is the updated release. Can you please review to make sure I've characterized everything correctly.

Julie

From: Cesnik, Catherine M
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 11:07 AM
To: Rodriguez, Julie
Cc: McNutt, Marcia K; Taylor, Willie R
Subject:

Julie,

The attached is still in draft, but the reservoir and nodal team leads have reviewed the "high-level" descriptions. If you need more clarification I can put you in touch with the team leads directly.

Catherine

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[attachment "05-23-10 Dr. McNutt heads task force.docx" deleted by Marcia K
McNutt/DO/USGS/DOI]