

**From:** "Franklin Shaffer" <Franklin.Shaffer@NETL.DOE.GOV>

**To:** savas@newton.berkeley.edu

**Cc:** ira.leifer@bubbleology.com, pedro.espin@nist.gov, Bill.Lehr@noaa.gov, Wereley@purdue.edu, aaliseda@u.washington.edu, rileyj@u.washington.edu, lasher@ucsd.edu, "Marcia K McNutt" <mcnutt@usgs.gov>

**Bcc:**

**Date:** Tue, 08 Jun 2010 09:57:55 AM

**Subject:** RE: Re: UPDATE

**Attachments:**

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Omer,

I mean no offense to anyone. I am only saying that the mission of this team has changed. I did not intend to criticize your analysis or the work of researchers on the team. I'm only suggesting that the mission statement of the team be changed to reflect what we are really doing.

Do you disagree with my statement that we do not have a data sample long enough to do a scientific analysis of the total average flow rate over a period on the order of one month ?

Frank

>>> 6/8/2010 9:13 AM >>>

Dear Frank,

I took offense at your statment that "In my opinion, this team is no longer doing an independent scientific analysis."

If BP came to me, I would have given exactly the same report. The only difference is that I would have charged them a lot of money.

Regards

Ömer

Quoting Franklin Shaffer :

> Marcia,

> Thank you for the offer to let me quit the team. I do not mind being

> on this kind of team, but the team's mission must be defined and what

> we are doing must be communicated when our numbers are used.

>

> In my opinion, this team is no longer doing an independent scientific

> analysis. We are doing policy analysis. Our mission statement

> should be changed to reflect the change in the team's work.

>

> Finally, I do not understand your statement that the response to the

> spill would be the same regardless of the flow rate. Did you not

> tell us yesterday that Secretary Chu wants our numbers to use when

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8831**

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he

> issues an order to BP to have a certain level of compliance in the  
> Gulf? This sounds to me like our numbers are being used to  
determine  
> a level of response.

>

> Again, I have no problem with a team generating numbers to guide the  
> government's policy decisions. But it should be made clear that we  
> are not doing an independent scientific analysis. We have not been  
> able to get a data sample upon which to do any kind of scientific  
> analysis. We could do a policy analysis based on the data we have,  
> but it is should called a policy estimate. It must not be presented  
> as a scientific analysis done by an independent team of experts.

>

> Regards,  
> Frank

>

>

>>>> "Marcia K McNutt" 6/8/2010 8:29 AM >>>

> I agree with Frank that events have warped the original intent of  
this

> exercise. But I am afraid that this is reality. I know that many  
members

> of the team have been hounded by the press, as have the government  
> officials who are awaiting your numbers. If flow rate numbers don't  
come

> from this group, who will they come from? Is there a more competent  
> group to supply them? If you want to suggest such a team, I would be  
> happy to take down the names. Frank: if you want to opt out, no one  
> would blame you. It is a bait and switch, but not with malice of  
> forethought. It is the circumstances that have backed us into this  
> situation. Admiral Allen has stated repeatedly that the response to  
the > spill would be the same regardless of the flow rate, and I am sure  
that

> from the Coast Guard standpoint that is true. But the American  
public

> does want a yardstick for measuring this. Scientists want to  
understand

> the impact to the ocean and ecosystems against the natural  
background.

> What should BP be told to engineer for containment? All of these are  
> legitimate uses of the FRTG results.

>

> Marcia

>

>

>

> From: Franklin Shaffer

[mailto:Franklin

> Shaffer ]

> Sent: Tuesday, June 08, 2010 8:15 AM

> To: Bill.Lehr@noaa.gov

> Cc: ira.leifer@bubbleology.com; Savas@newton.berkeley.edu;

> pedro.espina@nist.gov; Wereley@purdue.edu;

aaliseda@u.washington.edu;  
> rileyj@u.washington.edu; lasher@ucsd.edu; mcNutt@usgs.gov  
> Subject: Fwd: Re: UPDATE  
>  
>  
> Bill,  
> Thank you for forwarding an email I sent during my first day on this  
> team. I still agree exact  
ly with what I said. More than two weeks  
later,  
> this team still has not been able to see a continuous length of  
video  
> that will let us determine the kind of data sample we need to do a  
> scientific estimate.  
>  
> Please correct me if I am wrong, but this team was assembled to "do  
an  
> independent scientific analysis of the amount of oil leaking from the  
BP  
> oil spill." But this team is now being used to quickly generate  
numbers  
> on which national policy of the U.S. government is being implemented,  
at  
> the highest levels, on the fly.  
>  
> I was a policy analyst with the DOE for more than five years. I have  
no  
> problem with government officials assembling a team to generate the  
best  
> possible numbers on which government officials can make decisions.  
But > such teams do not do a "scientific, independent analysis." If you  
have  
> generated a written mission statement for this team, please send it  
to  
> me now. If you have not, I strongly suggest that you now put in  
writing  
> the mission statement, scope and responsibilities of this team.  
>  
> Everyone involved with this team should understand that a team doing  
an  
> independent scientific analysis is one thing. A team quickly  
generating  
> numbers for top government officials to make huge decisions is a  
> completely different type of team.  
>  
> Everyone on this team should clearly understand, that if you  
generate  
> numbers and tell the White House and Secretary of Energy that your  
> numbers are "independent scientific" numbers, and then tell the U.S.  
> government it can make critical national decisions based on your  
> "independent scientific" numbers, you will be held responsible for  
your  
> numbers, sooner or later. This should have been made very clear to  
this

> team as soon as government officials decided to use this team for  
> purposes different than team members were told when they joined the  
> team.  
>  
> Regards,  
> Frank  
>  
>  
>>>> <Bill.Lehr@noaa.gov> 6/8/2010 12:33 AM >>>  
> Franklin,  
>  
> I am forwarding to you, in case you have forgotten, one of your  
original  
> emails. If you follow all all the connections, it shows exactly the  
> extent of videos available to the team and the problems we were  
facing,  
> something all were aware of, including you.  
>  
> I am sure that when the lawyers descend, they will suppoena all the  
> videotapes and experts will spend months, if not years, examining  
> everything in great detail.  
>  
> That is not the job of this team. The job of each member of this team  
is  
> to meet deadlines that are often unreasonable but necessary to meet  
the > needs of the Response and the demands of persons in very high levels  
in  
> this government. We will not have all the data that we need. We will  
not > have the time that we need. But we will still have to provide the  
best  
> answer that we can.  
>  
> We now have a new, unreasonable, deadline. We are to provide by  
Friday  
> an estimate of the cut riser leak rate. Decisions have to be made  
and > giving no answer is not an option. New data will come tomorrow. As  
soon  
> as it arrives, I will transfer the data from the hard drive to the  
ftp > site. If history is any clue, we will have some difficult challenges  
> with this new data. It won't have the right frame rate or good  
lighting  
> or something else. I make the same request to you that I make to all  
> your brother plume team members. Do the best you can, be sure and  
caveat  
> your answers and explain the limitations on your results. All the  
videos  
> will remain available to the team to peruse at your leisure after  
the > team completes its tasks. We will continue to seek better data from  
BP. > But we have an obligation to the Response to give them timely  
answers.  
>  
> Bill  
>  
>

>  
>