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 Sent: Monday, May 17, 2010 6:18:56 PM  
 To: O'Connor, Rod  
 Cc: Mueller, 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

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.

(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

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