

time to occur. We do not know for certain if this lasted for a week or a month or longer.

Erosion is complicated, and the government experts have failed to address these key issues.

4. Final period: Effects of erosion are negligible.

This outlined scenario would account for a sudden release of oil, and for the initially steep increase in flow path cross section. It also would be consistent with a steady, gradual increase in flow path cross section, and the decreased contribution of erosion during the final period of the hydrocarbon release. Given the evidence, such a scenario is more likely than simply assuming that only erosion occurred - and that it occurred very rapidly.