

 Can you please state your full name ...

RL-0805-0001125

16 SEGMENTS (RUNNING 00:09:06.830)



1. PAGE 11:25 TO 12:02 (RUNNING 00:00:04.891)

25 Q. Can you please state your full name
00012:01 for the record?
02 A. My name is Roger Roland Lafferriere.

2. PAGE 14:14 TO 15:09 (RUNNING 00:00:45.353)

14 Q. Captain Lafferriere, I would like to
15 ask you a bit about your educational background.
16 Could you please walk me through your educational
17 training, please.
18 A. Okay. I am a high school graduate,
19 obviously. Then went on to get my environmental
20 science degree, Bachelor of Arts from the
21 University of Massachusetts, Lowell.
22 Later on in the Coast Guard I got my
23 Masters in Industrial Hygiene from the University
24 of Lowell Massachusetts.
25 And then got a Masters in Strategic
00015:01 Studies from the Marine Corps War College.
02 Q. When did you receive your BA?
03 A. 1985.
04 Q. And when did you receive your
05 Masters in Industrial Hygiene?
06 A. 1997.
07 Q. When did you receive your Masters of
08 Strategic Studies?
09 A. 2009.

3. PAGE 18:17 TO 19:09 (RUNNING 00:00:46.825)

17 Q. Captain Lafferriere, when did you
18 join the Coast Guard?
19 A. 1987.
20 Q. And where were you first stationed?
21 A. In headquarters, Washington, D.C.
22 Marine Environmental Response Office, I recall.
23 Q. Was that the first job you took
24 right after receiving your BA?
25 A. No, I, I had some other employments
00019:01 before that.
02 Q. And when did you leave the U.S.
03 Coast Guard?
04 A. In August, September 1st, 2012, was
05 my retirement date.
06 Q. Where are you currently employed?
07 A. I am employed with the Federal
08 Emergency Management Agency in Sacramento
09 California.

4. PAGE 24:23 TO 25:23 (RUNNING 00:01:14.595)

23 Q. Aside from your work in the
24 DEEPWATER HORIZON spill have you ever been
25 involved in response to another oil spill?
00025:01 A. Yes.
02 Q. Which other oil spills have you been
03 involved in?

04 A. I will start with the major oil
05 spills, how is that. EXXON VALDEZ, tank five
06 Morris Berman oil spill, tank barge VISTA BELLA,
07 V-I-S-T-A, B-E-L-L-A, Hurricane Hugo major oil
08 spill.
09 San Jacinto major oil spill. NEW
10 CARISSA major oil spill. Katrina major oil
11 spills. Motor vessel ATHOS I, major oil spill.
12 Those are the only ones that I can recall for
13 major oil spills. Hundreds of minor and medium
14 oil spills.
15 Q. Were any of the oil spills that you
16 have just mentioned related to off-shore
17 drilling?
18 A. No.
19 Q. Other than Katrina, were any
20 other --
21 A. That is incorrect. Katrina there
22 was some off-shore concerns for oil spill
23 response.

5. PAGE 50:02 TO 50:14 (RUNNING 00:00:27.194)

02 Q. Between May and July of 2010 were
03 you involved in the DEEPWATER HORIZON response
04 continuously?
05 A. Yes.
06 Q. What was your title?
07 A. I was the Federal On-Scene
08 Coordinator representative, also incident
09 commander within the Unified Command.
10 Q. Is that two different positions or
11 is that two titles for the same role?
12 A. One is a legal responsibility, legal
13 authorities, FOSCR. The other is the ICS
14 position.

6. PAGE 123:25 TO 124:18 (RUNNING 00:00:59.146)

25 Q. Is it your view that you would have
00124:01 only had success in the context of safety and
02 response workers if there had been no incidents
03 whatsoever for an individual response worker?
04 A. You always try to strive for zero
05 incidents.
06 That is hardly ever achievable in a
07 response because of the nature of the dynamics
08 that go on. However, when you see a problem you
09 try to fix it. You hope to get it fixed. That
10 is Unified Command. That is success in my mind,
11 trying to get those things addressed.
12 But the fact that we lost, the heat
13 stress is not even an issue. But when I was
14 there we had a 20-year old kid that was killed in
15 a car accident and a 40-year old man died in a
16 pool. I can't consider that a success after
17 attending the funerals of both. We could have
18 done better.

7. PAGE 309:19 TO 309:21 (RUNNING 00:00:04.161)

19 Q. You are not suggesting that BP was
20 in charge of the DEEPWATER HORIZON response
21 efforts, correct?

8. PAGE 309:23 TO 310:07 (RUNNING 00:00:19.676)

23 THE WITNESS: I'm suggesting that BP
24 is responsible for the cleanup of the oil

25 spill, absolutely, absolutely. Let's not
00310:01 forget that that is their duty.
02 It is my duty to ensure that they do
03 it adequately, which they did. It doesn't
04 mean they did it excellently. It doesn't
05 mean they did it superiorly. It doesn't mean
06 they were awesome. It means they were
07 adequate, adequate. That is it.

9. PAGE 349:16 TO 349:23 (RUNNING 00:00:35.306)

16 Q. And this goes, this is actually a
17 two-page document that goes to HCE 058-004526.
18 This is an e-mail chain, the first,
19 the top of the page, the top of the first page is
20 from you sent on June 8th to Captain Hanzalik,
21 Captain Perry, and cc'd to Captain Austin. And
22 it is titled Forward Critical Resource Request
23 Offshore Skimming Assets. Do you see that?

10. PAGE 349:25 TO 349:25 (RUNNING 00:00:00.112)

25 THE WITNESS: Yes.

11. PAGE 350:02 TO 350:24 (RUNNING 00:00:55.057)

02 Q. And do you recognize this e-mail?
03 A. Yes.
04 Q. Okay. You state in the e-mail on
05 the first paragraph, "Below is an assessment of
06 the offshore skimming situation in regards to
07 requesting and obtaining additional resources.
08 "BP contracting/acquisition is too
09 slow."
10 Did I read that correctly?
11 A. Yes.
12 Q. You state in the second paragraph,
13 "We all know we can use more skimmers offshore,
14 especially as the use of dispersants becomes more
15 problematic. I have been pushing for more
16 skimmers since I have been here.
17 Mike, BP IC has been agreeing with
18 me and we were holding off until we saw the
19 success of top kill and top hat."
20 Did I read that correctly?
21 A. Yes.
22 Q. You go on to state, "The reality is
23 we have had some success, but we are still seeing
24 oil and massive slicks forming. We need to push

12. PAGE 351:10 TO 351:11 (RUNNING 00:00:02.656)

10 THE WITNESS: Yes, I don't change my
11 opinion on that.

13. PAGE 355:24 TO 356:07 (RUNNING 00:00:17.697)

24 Q. You go on to state, "Mike's argument
25 has been based on the perceived high degree
00356:01 success of top kill which failed and now top hat
02 which we still don't have a tremendous amount of
03 faith in stopping the oil flow. The bottom line,
04 the better we attack the source, the less
05 shoreline impact there will be."
06 Is that correct?
07 A. Yes.

14. PAGE 356:10 TO 357:07 (RUNNING 00:00:59.969)

10 Q. Do you -- is that an accurate

11 reflection of your assessment at the time?
12 A. At the time of the incident
13 absolutely. The more we attacked the source, the
14 more -- less impact it would be. And I'm talking
15 about surface, surface area.
16 Q. In Paragraph 2 of your e-mail you go
17 on to say, "We need to increase our oil spill
18 response vessels, OSRVs, to twice the size of our
19 existing fleet. This would be 22 additional
20 vessels."
21 Did I read that correctly?
22 A. Yes.
23 Q. Are these OSRVs skimmers?
24 A. These are skimmer systems, large
25 vessel skimming systems.
00357:01 Q. So when you are saying, when you
02 were testifying earlier that when you were asked
03 whether or not you had specifically requested a
04 certain number of skimmers, is this, that you had
05 requested 22 additional skimmers; is that
06 correct?
07 A. Yes, this is, yes.

15. PAGE 357:13 TO 358:04 (RUNNING 00:00:35.784)

13 THE WITNESS: I was asking for 22
14 additional vessels.
15 BY MS. FIDLER:
16 Q. You go on to write, "BP will argue
17 that there is not enough oil to skim or that
18 there are traffic issues associated with this. I
19 disagree. We do not need pieces of skimmers,
20 arms, skimmers, et cetera, we need the entire
21 system including support vessels and barges.
22 "It took BP," excuse me, "it took BP
23 two weeks to outfit the Dutch skimming arms."
24 Did I read that correctly?
25 A. Yes.
00358:01 Q. You go on to say, "We cannot afford
02 this kind of delay."
03 Did I read that correctly?
04 A. Yes.

16. PAGE 359:02 TO 359:23 (RUNNING 00:00:58.408)

02 Q. You go on a couple more paragraphs
03 down you state, "We will also need additional
04 barges for storage."
05 Did I read that correctly?
06 A. Yes.
07 Q. Can you explain the role of barges
08 in mechanical operations?
09 A. Well, when it is recovered by the
10 skimmer is, is usually placed into a receptacle,
11 either the receptacle is built into the skimming
12 vessel which is in the case in a lot of OSRVs, or
13 it is, there is a barge towed behind the skimmer.
14 Either way you also need barges on
15 the shore, because once you fill up either the
16 OSRV or the skimming vessel and barge combination
17 you have to send barges, you have to send the
18 ships back to shore, offload and then again back
19 into the fight. And there was a shortage of
20 barges to make that happen.
21 Q. I have you, did you let BP know
22 about your concern regarding additional barges?
23 A. Yes.



