

**Interview Summary Form**

**Interview Details**

Interviewee Names: **Rusty Wright** Date: **10/20/10** Time: **1:00pm**  
 BOEMRE GOM Oil Spill Regional Administrator  
 Interviewee Job Location: **New Orleans, LA**

Interviewer Name(s): **David Moore, Larry Dietrick, Brian House, Bruce Johnson, Greg Pollack** Interview Location: **In person**

Can you talk about...  
 • I have worked for... years. I am the G... BOEMRE drill pi...  
 • If an operator, like... of them.  
 • Eastern gulf is s... affected stat, we...

You mentioned that...  
 • Courtesy review... they do not have...

We have heard that...  
 • They did not BP... WCDs in t. 1) A near-shore WCD (i.e., close... and 3) an exploratory WCD. This exploratory... an exploratory well, there is higher risk, since... separate WCD for this type of well). Because... and put into their plan. That WCD was 250k... day. But since it didn't exceed what was in... update their spill plan. As of 4/19/10, we were... the paradigm shifted, DWH has changed how...

is the spill from a well blow out treated as a one-day, albeit large release, or as a series of releases over 30 days?  
 • The plan doesn't address if the spill continues over time. But they have to be prepared to respond for 30 days. I is almost like a tanker spill, but with a much bigger spill volume. In other words, there is a 250k barrel event and they have to clean it up in 30 days. It is not a 250k barrel event occurring every day for 30 days.

Can you discuss how the WCD in a plan is reviewed and how do you evaluate the WCD?  
 • On 4/19 (or before), when we received a plan and the WCD says 250k barrels/day, we required the operator to describe their response tools. We were interested in their effective daily recovery capacity (EDRC), their skimming capacity and their storage capacity. Essentially, we were looking to ensure they had response tools for 200% of their WCD identified in the plan. The skimming capacity, dispersants, all of those things listed in the plan met our criteria to meet initial volume that is the baseline that we approved. 200% is not in regulation anywhere. I don't know where it came from. It made more sense than less than 200% I guess. That is where we were at the time. For small operators, we still looked for 200%-that was the bar that operators had to get to in their plan for it to be approved.

Is there anything specific in the OSRP that you require for near operations?  
 • We require that the operator protect shorelines with the highest risk. We have a model that shows where the oil will likely go. We require the operator to plan a response for that section and the equipment and people needed to mitigate it. This is Appendix H of the plan.

Were you involved in the flow rate estimation?  
 • No, we didn't feel like it was right. That said, I knew 11k/day barrels was wrong, but didn't have a way to have input, as that value was coming out of the UAC. The UAC was controlling the number. It just seemed like it was more than 1k barrels a day to me. From my perspective, that value didn't slow down BP. They were throwing everything they could. Maybe at times what they were doing was not efficient or smart, but they were open to any idea and open to spending on pretty much anything. Their questions on the use of subsea dispersants were minimal. Money was no object to them.

Can you comment on the decision the President made to triple the resources?  
 • No, it sounded like a political number. To me, it just bogged down the response, reduced effectiveness and slowed...

...common sense, the supply lines, people's... the best for their citizens? Yes, but I was...  
 ...nt. Their senior management was involved...

...g the sub-branches took too long to do. Moreover, they hadn't practiced it. They...

...Political demands on response organization. It drove the response away from the oil... a spill, having... to get more... ents... loose.

**From your perspective, what went well?**

- From my view of the response, BP put 100% of their effort towards this event. Their senior management was involved, they had unlimited resources and they didn't hesitate.