

From: "Espina, Pedro I." <pedro.espina@nist.gov>
To: "Bill Lehr" <bill.lehr@noaa.gov>, "Juan Lasheras" <lasheras@ucsd.edu>, Wereley@purdue.edu
Cc: "ira leifer" <ira.leifer@bubbleology.com>, Savas@newton.berkeley.edu, "James J Riley" <rileyj@u.washington.edu>, "Poojitha Yapa" <pdya@clarkson.edu>, pete@gso.uri.edu
Bcc:
Date: Fri, 21 May 2010 04:22:57 PM
Subject: Re: My problem
Attachments:

It is true that the team is been asked to provide a result in a time scale to which none of us is accustomed to, but I, for one, think that having the BP staff present at tomorrow's meeting will be good thing. Their presence will allow the team to request items directly from the source – whether they are better-longer videos, schematics, or situation parameters. And if they are not responsive, then solid accusations can be made – although I prefer to think that the BP technical staff is stuck between a very bad situation and a very restrictive team of lawyers.

Bill: I can only imagine the pressure that you are under at this time. If the WH wants a result ASAP, we should aim at given one assessing a large uncertainty to it. In time, once Juan, Steve and others have had an opportunity to process more images, the uncertainty of the estimate can be lowered and I suspect that most people will not object to scientists arriving at better results given additional recourses.

I look forward to sharing ideas with you all of you tomorrow.

Pedro

Pedro I. Espina, Ph.D.
National Institute of Standards and Technology
Program Analyst, Program Office, Office of the Director,
former Leader, Fluid Flow Group,
and NIST POC for the Deepwater Horizon incident
Tel: +1 301 975 5444

On 5/21/10 5:00 PM, "Bill Lehr" <bill.lehr@noaa.gov> wrote:

Juan,

Here is my problem. This is the message I was given today:

ADM Allen this morning has demanded a revised flow rate by 4pm EDT today.
- Background. It was made clear to NIC staff that a new set of video data was made available to NOAA late last night. NOAA and its academic partners have not had enough time to analyze those videos to improve calculations.
All relevant videos are on a NOAA FTP server and Bill Lehr estimates that the earliest he can offer for the flow rate calculation is Sunday, although we will be doing all we can to work through this during the weekend.

The National Incident Command, and quite frankly, the President, are demanding a new estimate this weekend. Might I suggest the following plan?

The group will start the meeting with the BP representatives present. You may bring your points forward to them and we can demand answers. If they refuse or waffle, I will report that fact to the Incident Command. Then, everyone can call in on an alternative number that only this group will have and you can

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freely discuss among yourselves the next steps. To meet the President's needs, I suggest perhaps we produce a large range of potential values, pointing out that the wide range is required because of the poor quality video.

Best Regards,

Bill Lehr
206 719 1813

On 5/21/10 1:25 PM, Juan Lasheras wrote:

Dear Bill,

I finally was able to take a look at the new videos available in
ftp://ftp.orr.noaa.gov/Deepwater_Horizon_Ext/.

Are these the best you can get from BP? These are not original videos and the quality has been **sharply** downgraded. They seem to be videotaped from a computer screen where they are been downloaded from some webpage. Correspondingly the quality is **atrocious**. They are even worse than the previous videos you have shared with us. They are pretty much useless!

BP MUST release to us the **ORIGINAL OUTPUT** from their underwater cameras?
Honestly, I and any other serious scientists would be reckless to venture any analysis with this data. It would be **TOTALLY UNDEFENSABLE, UNRELIABLE** and we will lose any credibility.

I feel we are being used and I refuse to sit down tomorrow with the BP guys to discuss any of my calculations until BP provide us with the **ORIGINAL HIGH QUALITY VIDEO IMAGES** that they certainly have.

Best regards,

Juan

Juan C. Lasheras, Ph.D

Stanford and Beverly Penner Professor of Applied Sciences.

Distinguished Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and Bioengineering.

Jacobs School of Engineering.

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From: Bill Lehr [<mailto:Bill.Lehr@noaa.gov>]

Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2010 4:15 PM

To: ira leifer; Espina, Pedro I.; Savas@newton.berkeley.edu; James J Riley; Lasheras@ucsd.edu; Poojitha Yapa; Wereley@purdue.edu; pete@gso.uri.edu

Subject: conference call details

DEEPWATER HORIZON LEAK ESTIMATION

CONFERENCE CALL SATURDAY 0900 PDT (12 NOON EDT) Duration 1 hour

Number : [REDACTED]

Access code [REDACTED]

BREAKING NEWS:

- NOAA has just acquired a hard drive with three days worth of video of the release and will put it up on an ftp site, soon.
- BP has reported recovering 5000 bb/day from the 'straw'

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- BP has promised us a diagram of the spill site.
- I am attaching preliminary calculations by Prof. Bommer and will also share some preliminary calculations by Prof Savas once we have received his permission to do so. Please remember these are preliminary drafts and should not be distributed outside this group.

PLEA

The spill is probably the largest in U.S. history. The President of the United States is looking to you and other experts like you to estimate the size of the leak.

Note, the answers that you give are designed for the response, not for subsequent damage assessment. Hence, no one expects very precise estimates. Please document the method, possible range of values., and degree of uncertainty for your answers. Also, to ensure everyone's fifteen minutes of fame, please provide a short paragraph of your credentials.

OTHER ITEMS

BP has asked for permission to attend the conference call. I have no objection provided none of you has an objection.

NASA/USGS/NOAA are completing analysis of the volume of surface oil, based upon the ER-2 plane overflights of May 17.

My apologies for disturbing your weekends and my great appreciation for your efforts.

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Bill Lehr

NOAA/ORR

██████████ (cell)

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