

From: "Mark K Sogge" <mark_sogge@usgs.gov>
To: "Rodriguez, Julie" <[REDACTED]>
Cc: "Garcia, "Martha N" <mgarcia@usgs.gov>, "Hines, Vic <vhines@usgs.gov>, "Vic Hines" <vhines@usgs.gov>
Bcc:
Date: Mon, 07 Jun 2010 04:03:41 PM
Subject: Responses to Julie's questions re new flow estimate and data provisioning
Attachments: 20305CFF40305BA50006E32B18625773B

Julie,

Here are Marcia's responses:

1) When will there be another updated/more accurate flow rate generated?

The FRTG hopes to update its estimate based on new information shortly.

2) Is there a plan afoot to make a direct measurement? If not why not?

The only truly direct measurement that is not subject to interpretation or does not involve assumptions is to capture all oil and gas at the surface, separate the oil, and measure it. BP is working to do this as the oil is taken aboard their ship and hopes to achieve 100% capture of the flow by the end of the week. If they achieve 100% capture, that will provide a direct measurement of full flow.

3) Scientists are still saying BP is sitting on info that could help generate a more accurate flow – such as higher res video. What are we doing to get them to share all info – he knows about letter that Jackson/Napolitano sent, but points out that was some time ago and scientists say a lot is still not being shared, so what else are we doing/can we do to get them to share.

BP has provided a specific data liaison on their staff, to help assure they can be responsive to our requests. We are not aware of any intentional withholding or delaying of data. Some delays in getting requested data have been due to misunderstanding of exactly what was required for a particular scientific analysis. In some cases, delays are due to logistics of getting data from remote operations; e.g., underwater ROVs that are operating offshore.

To help make the existing video data widely available, all video used by the Flow Rate Technical Group is being posted on a public access website [Marcia is working to get this set up today]. The available video is of varying quality due to source differences and file format.

Is this intended for public release, or for NIC use?

Mark

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From: "Rodriguez, Julie" <[REDACTED]>
To: "Hines, Vic" <vhines@usgs.gov>
Cc: "Sogge, Mark K" <mark_sogge@usgs.gov>, "Garcia, Martha N" <mgarcia@usgs.gov>

**Exhibit No.
8870**

**Worldwide Court
Reporters, Inc.**

Date: 06/07/2010 01:58 PM
Subject: RE: CBS coverage

Vic,

I'm having problems getting to the link but will check it out ASAP. We've been experiencing internet probs on top of everything else.

In the meantime can you help me track down answers to the following from Marcia?

Questions:

- 1) When will there be another updated/more accurate flow rate generated?
- 2) Is there a plan afoot to make a direct measurement? If not why not?
- 3) Scientists are still saying BP is sitting on info that could help generate a more accurate flow – such as higher res video. What are we doing to get them to share all info – he knows about letter that Jackson/Napolitano sent, but points out that was some time ago and scientists say a lot is still not being shared, so what else are we doing/can we do to get them to share.

We need answers ASAP, as usual J!

Thanks,

Julie

From: Vic Hines [<mailto:vhines@usgs.gov>]
Sent: Monday, June 07, 2010 2:50 PM
To: Rodriguez, Julie
Subject: CBS coverage

Julie -- have you seen this? If it's accurate it makes it appear Admiral Allen is unaware that the 12,000 to 25,000 number for the plume team is just the lower bounds estimate.

Vic

Google News Alert for: **u.s. geological survey**



[CBS News](#)

[Thad Allen: Oil Spill Fight Will Last Into Fall](#)

CBS News

It was headed by Marcia McNutt, who is head of the **US Geological Survey**," he said. "They developed two models. One range was 12 to 19000 barrels a day, ...

[See all stories on this topic](#)

Vic Hines

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