

Hon. Edward J. Markey, Chairman  
 May 24, 2010  
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3. Please provide all documents that relate to the amount of oil that could be expected to flow from this well, including any estimates of profits that this well was projected to generate.

We have enclosed a production profile estimate for three development wells, one of which is the Mississippi Canyon 252 #1 exploration well. [BP-HZN-CEC 020107.] If you require additional information, please let us know.

4. What is the BP method and scientific basis for the estimate of 5,000 barrels per day? Was this estimate based solely on surface monitoring of the size of the spill?

The estimate of 5,000 barrels per day is a Unified Command estimate, not a BP estimate. The initial work leading to this estimate was carried out by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ("NOAA"). Two parameters were used in estimation of oil volume:

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- naturally within hours of release.
- o Thus, 10,000 barrels on the water implies 20,000 barrels were released. (At this point in the response, negligible oil had been skimmed or dispersed, and none had been burned.)

**Subsequent estimates of flow rate have been carried out within Unified Command and have yielded consistent results.**

- Plume rise is 19.3"-49.5" cm (1X, and is somewhat disrupted at the release point).
- o By visual inspection the velocity of the material in the plume is between 7 and 30 cm per second.
  - o The plume contains roughly 50% oil droplets (together with gas bubbles and entrained seawater).
  - o Assuming a mid-range velocity of 15 cm per second, NOAA estimated a flow rate of 5,000 barrels per day. The associated range would be from 2,500 to 10,000 barrels per day.

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