

From: Doug Helton on behalf of Doug Helton [doug.helton@noaa.gov]  
Sent: Saturday, May 01, 2010 5:03:07 PM  
To: John Ewald  
Subject: Re: DOUG -- AP -- Can you help?

I would not feel comfortable with that. We are tracking it, and the Unified Command is making the call on the estimated release rate. NOAA continues to observe a significant amount of oil near the release point.

John Ewald wrote:

> So how about I write this to the reporter: "Based on our calculations  
> from data gathered from satellite imagery, aerial overflights, and  
> remotely operated vehicle underwater, NOAA continues to estimate a  
> 5,000 barrel/day release from the two points in the riser and one  
> point in the drill pipe. From the start to 4/28 (8 days) that equal  
> 1.68 million gallons of oil."

>  
> Also, what about the Katrina/oil spill question? Should I defer to  
> Weather Service? Or could you talk generally about the paths of both  
> events being similar but also very different because of  
> tides/currents/weather/etc?

>  
> V/R,  
> John

>  
> Doug Helton wrote:  
>> we are using the 5,000 barrel release until you hear otherwise. 5000  
>> barrels from the start till 4/28 would be 8 days. that would be  
>> 40,000 bbls (not subtracting the amount lost while the rig was  
>> burning) so 1.68 MG. The professor may be closer to the mark, but  
>> a lot of uncertainties in how this is calculated. need to know area  
>> of slick, % cover, and thickness. Uncertainties about, especially  
>> thickness. We can make inferences based on color and the professor  
>> is using our document to do his calculations. See our open water job  
>> aide:  
>> [http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/book\\_shelf/1462\\_FINAL%20OWJA%202007.pdf](http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/book_shelf/1462_FINAL%20OWJA%202007.pdf)

>>  
>> John Ewald wrote:  
>>> Doug,  
>>>  
>>> I'm not sure if we can comment on a Florida State oceanography  
>>> professor's study, but what does NOAA estimate the total gallons of  
>>> oil were spilled since the spill began and through 4/28?  
>>>  
>>> Also, Janet had a separate question about the similarity between the  
>>> tracks of Katrina and the oil spill, how both are steered by Gulf  
>>> currents? Do you know who could best answer that? NWS?

>>>  
>>> V/R,  
>>> John

>>>  
>>>  
>>> -----

>>> Subject:  
>>> FW: slick size estimate  
>>> From:  
>>> "McConnaughey, Janet" <JMcConn@ap.org>  
>>> Date:  
>>> Fri, 30 Apr 2010 22:11:14 -0400  
>>> To:  
>>> Doug.Helton@noaa.gov, John.Ewald@noaa.gov, scott.dean@bp.com,  
>>> daren.beaudo@bp.com, Rodney.Mallett@LA.GOV  
>>>  
>>> To:  
>>> Doug.Helton@noaa.gov, John.Ewald@noaa.gov, scott.dean@bp.com,  
>>> daren.beaudo@bp.com, Rodney.Mallett@LA.GOV

>>> CC:  
>>> "Schreier, Greg" <GSchreier@ap.org>  
>>>  
>>>  
>>> Gentlemen,  
>>>  
>>> I'm writing to ask for comment on the estimate in this paper by Florida  
>>> State oceanography professor Ian MacDonald that, as of April 28, the oil  
>>> spill comprised 8 million to 9 million gallons of oil.  
>>>  
>>> Are his calculations accurate? If they are inaccurate, where might any  
>>> error be?  
>>>  
>>> In an interview, Dr. MacDonald suggested monitoring Gulf currents and  
>>> the trajectory of oil droplets to figure out where it is heading and  
>>> position skimmers there. Is this being done?  
>>>  
>>> I won't be in the office, so please reply to Greg Schreier, who will be  
>>> in the New Orleans bureau on Saturday and Sunday at the same phone  
>>> number (504-523-3931) and whose e-mail address -- gschreier@ap.org -- is  
>>> cc'd above.  
>>>  
>>> Thank you,  
>>>  
>>> Janet  
>>>  
>>> Janet McConnaughey  
>>> The Associated Press  
>>> 1515 Poydras St., Ste 2500  
>>> New Orleans LA 70112  
>>> 504-523-3931  
>>>  
>>> -----Original Message-----  
>>> From: Ian MacDonald [mailto:imacdonald@fsu.edu]  
>>> Sent: Friday, April 30, 2010 7:39 PM  
>>> To: McConnaughey, Janet  
>>> Subject: slick size estimate  
>>>  
>>> Janet.  
>>>  
>>> This is my report. IRM  
>>> -----  
>>> Ian R. MacDonald  
>>> Florida State Univ. POB 3064326  
>>> Tallahassee, FL 32306  
>>> 850-644-5498  
>>>  
>>>  
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>>>  
>> --  
>> Doug Helton  
>> Incident Operations Coordinator  
>> NOAA Emergency Response Division  
>> 206-526-4563 (wk)  
>> 206-890-7760 (cell)  
>> 206-526-4911 (24-hour Duty Officer)  
>> <http://response.restoration.noaa.gov>

>  
> --  
> John Ewald  
> Public Affairs Specialist  
> National Ocean Service  
> National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
> 1305 East-West Highway, Room 13238  
> Silver Spring, MD 20910  
> Office: (301) 713-3066 x191  
> Mobile: (240) 429-6127  
> Fax: (301) 713-9337  
> john.ewald@noaa.gov  
> <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/>

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