

Re: I'm in Houston.... 

Victor F Labson  Marcia K McNutt

05/30/2010 12:39 AM

History: This message has been replied to.

Marcia,

Could I send one of my scientists down to Houston to help you? I have people who could take on some of the load and would be glad to contribute.

Vic

Marcia K McNutt

----- Original Message -----

From: Marcia K McNutt

Sent: 05/29/2010 10:33 PM EDT

To: Victor Labson

Cc: Catherine Cesnik; Lori_Caramanian@ex.ios.doi.gov; Vic Hines; Julie Rodriguez; Lawrence.E.Greene@uscg.mil

Subject: RE: I'm in Houston....

Vic -

I like your plan. I think we should move forward and get these documents posted ASAP.

Thanks.

Marcia

From: Victor F Labson/GD/USGS/DOI
Sent: Saturday, May 29, 2010 8:47 PM
To: Marcia K McNutt
Subject: RE: I'm in Houston....

Marcia,

If we are to move on I think I know what to do. The summary we are preparing to post documenting what we did to arrive at our estimate can simply state that it is the best estimate at the time of writing, ie., May 30. We are in a continuous effort to refine our estimate. That should take care of it in my opinion. The crew is set to try to quantify the 88% and 10% of sheen and dull oil from imagery. That could make quite a difference as fractions of a micron over 17,000 sq, km really add up. Interestingly none of the sub-sea observations have revealed anything to invalidate our line of reasoning. Hollander of U, So. FL was interviewed on PBS News Hour last night and is seeing the dispersed oil (lots of it) but nothing unexplainable. If I understood him correctly he was seeing this oil virtually disappear before his eyes. I'd like to talk with him, but he has been at sea as much as possible. His time frame for results is a little slow for us as well.

I've attached the draft version of the Mass Balance summary we hope to have available for posting soon. We will expand from this to a report that follow the format of Bill Lehr's report. I plan to have the summary released as an Open file report reviewed by Mike Hutt and Jerad Bales. I'll be in Reston next week and volunteered to Judy that I would be glad to provide an update to the ELT. Sonya Jones is preparing a briefing as well and I provided her some information this morning.

By-the-way, I think right now they could only pry my computer out of my cold, dead hands. My great sympathy to you for being without.

Vic

<< File: MassBalanceTeam052810.doc >>

F r o m :	Marcia K McNutt/DO/USGS/DOI
To:	Victor F Labson/GD/USGS/DOI
Date:	05/29/2010 06:12 PM
Subject:	RE: I'm in Houston....

Sorry Vic. Just getting to some emails from yesterday today. I was without my computer for 8 hours and between yesterday and today had more than 500 emails come in. Plus was trying to take care of the requests from two cabinet secretaries, mobilize Woods Hole for their experiment, and move on from top kill.

Sorry I got the numbers wrong. Jennifer says we will just move on.... The important thing is the overlap.

Marcia

From: Victor F Labson/GD/USGS/DOI
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 10:41 AM
To: Marcia K McNutt
Subject: Re: I'm in Houston....

Marcia,

We are pulling a report together. I will talk to Vic this morning to give him some background. We have this summary (attached) of the Mass Balance prepared for the newly invited outside members to the sub-group, Kurt Hansen, USCG R&D, and Hossein Kazemi, Chesebro' Distinguished Chair Professor of Petroleum Engineering, Colorado School of Mines. I will coordinate with Bill Lehr so that the format of the reports has some consistency.

I do have one question. The Mass Balance numbers I reported to you were 10,500 to 19,000 and the press release is 12,000 to 19,000. Do we need to accommodate the 12,000 figure? Additionally the 130,000 and 270,000 figures threw us for a loop but I find that that is the amount of sea-surface oil actually estimated from AVIRIS and satellite imagery. If I have that right we will use the number and explanation in the report.

Vic

<< File: MassBalanceTeam052710.doc >>

From:	"Michael H Powers" <mhpowers@usgs.gov>
To:	"Vic Labson" <vlabson@usgs.gov>
Date:	05/27/2010 03:21 PM

Subject:

Mass Balance Team Estimates - Executive Summary

Hi Vic,

Here is a first abbreviated version of documenting the team estimates. In this write-up I used 17,725 square kilometers instead of your 17,000, and I used 38% evaporation instead of your 40%. The change in the results is negligible. In fact, you may want a version where all numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand barrels.

Also, after looking at this single page summary, what do we need in the way of a report? Should I start on a more complete OFR format with an introduction, data, results, and references that other team members will help complete?

Mike

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<< File: MassBalanceTeam052710.doc >>

From:	Marcia K McNutt/DO/USGS/DOI
To:	Vic Hines <vhines@usgs.gov>
Cc:	"Cesnik, Catherine M" <Catherine_Cesnik@ios.doi.gov>, Judy J Nowakowski/DO/USGS/DOI@USGS, Bill.Lehr@
Date:	05/28/2010 06:10 AM
Subject:	Re: I'm in Houston....

Vic -

By way of this email, I'd like to introduce you to Catherine Cesnik in Willie Taylor's office. I'd like you to help Catherine coordinate the rollout of the report of the FRTG with the NIC. This is very important work, and must be handled delicately and in a manner that the NIC approves. We also must respect the science.

Catherine has the corporate memory of the FRTG. I can make sure that we respect the science. The NIC can oversee the messaging. Vic - can you take over much of the heavy lifting for his? Catherine can download most of the documents for you. I am also copying to Judy as she has most of them.

Bill Lehr and Vic Labson can make sure you have the latest reports from the individual teams. Lic Labson will need to supply not only the AVIRIS result but also a brief writeup of how the mass balance was extracted from the AVIRIS calculation.

I think that to really respect the science, a bottom line needs to be as follows:

We have currently 3 lines of evidence that allow us to revise the flow rate substantially upward: flow recovered by the RITT tool, a new mass balance result from AVIRIS, and improved analysis of the plume from video.

All three of those lines of evidence indicate that the true rate of oil release is greater than 12,000 barrels per day.
Two of the three (mass balance and plume) indicate that the release rate is as high as 19,000 barrels per day.
The plume analysis allows the release rate to be 25,000 barrels per day or higher.

Another FRTG is applying reservoir analysis to determine what the theoretical rate of release would have been for this well, taking into account restrictions in the BOP. All groups reserve the right to improve their analyses and revise their estimates. The flow rate group has yet to supply an upper bound from their analysis.

Marcia

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From:	Vic Hines <vhines@usgs.gov>
To:	Marcia K McNutt <mcnutt@usgs.gov>
Date:	05/27/2010 11:37 PM
Subject:	Re: I'm in Houston....

I'd be happy to join in the meetings if you'd like. I'll be ready to go at 6 just in case. If they are something you need to do alone just let me know and I'll sleep for another hour and join you later.
Vic

Vic Hines
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On May 27, 2010, at 8:10 PM, Marcia K McNutt wrote:

Hi neighbor! I am in 254! I am going to get some sleep. Won't have time for breakfast. I have meetings tomorrow starting at 6:30 running through 8:30. What time were you planning to show up?

Marcia

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From:	Vic Hines < vhines@usgs.gov >
To:	Marcia McNutt < mcnutt@usgs.gov >
Date:	05/27/2010 10:50 PM
Subject:	I'm in Houston....

Marcia,
Heard you did great today! I arrived early evening and am in room 256 of the hotel. My cell number is [REDACTED].

I'd planned to follow you in tomorrow, but would be happy to meet you for breakfast if you're interested; just let me know.

Look forward to seeing you.

Vic

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