

1403925118-32116-18672-149-35

From: Barbara W Wainman <bwainman@usgs.gov>  
Sent: Tue, 17 Aug 2010 15:21:44  
To: GS FOIA 0134 <foia0134@usgs.gov>  
Subject: Fw: DeepwaterHorizonOilBudget20100801.pdf

Barbara W. Wainman  
Director  
Office of Communications and Outreach  
US Geological Survey  
119 National Center  
Reston, VA 20192

(703) 648-5750

----- Forwarded by Barbara W Wainman/DO/USGS/DOI on 08/17/2010 03:21 PM

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From: Sky Bristol <sbristol@usgs.gov>

To: Clarice Ransom <cransom@usgs.gov>, Kathleen K Gohn <kgohn@usgs.gov>, Timothy J West <twest@usgs.gov>,

"Ms. Barbara W Wainman" <bwainman@usgs.gov>

Cc: Anne-Berry Wade <abwade@usgs.gov>, Heidi K Koontz <hkoontz@usgs.gov>, Stephen Hammond <sehammon@usgs.gov>

1403925118-32116-18672-149-35

Date: 08/05/2010 11:13 AM

Subject: Fwd: DeepwaterHorizonOilBudget20100801.pdf

Here is another message I received this morning somewhat related to the previous Congressional staffer inquiry. This is from an emeritus professor at MIT.

I now understand the reason this all came down to my email contact. The forwarded attachment comes from this NOAA site:

[http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20100804\\_oil.html](http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20100804_oil.html)

It is a PDF report output from the Oil Budget Calculator online tool that we maintain for USCG and NOAA staff at the NIC. I ran this report myself on behalf of the folks there, and it was stamped with my user ID/email address. No taking it back now, but that really should have either been run by someone else at the NIC or else modified to not include that particular metadata.

We'll keep you informed on any further correspondence that comes in like this.

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Sky Bristol

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Lynn Gelhar <gelhar@MIT.EDU>

Date: August 5, 2010 4:59:46 AM MDT

To: sbristol@usgs.gov

Subject: DeepwaterHorizonOilBudget20100801.pdf

Dear Mr. Bristol,

In trying to determine the scientific basis for the now widely quoted (evening news, etc) number that 3/4 of the Deepwater Horizon oil spilled has gone away, I have come to a dead end. The original report ((See attached file:

Oil\_Budget\_description\_8\_3\_FINAL.844091.pdf)mentioned as the source for this figure cites the subject pdf, which is supposed to contain "Further information on these calculation methods..." . The subject pdf does not seem to contain any detailed specific quantitative scientific information on how the calculations where made, or any specific references to scientific reports, documents, or publications that document the specific scientific basis for the calculations. At the bottom of each page of the subject pdf I find the statement:

Deepwater Horizon MC252 Gulf Incident Oil Budget  
Report generated by sbristol@usgs.gov on 08/02/2010 05:30 PM MDT.  
See end notes section of the report for reference material on report elements.

Application operated by the U.S. Coast Guard and provided by the U.S. Geological Survey in cooperation with the National

Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

I see no specifics or references in the "Reference Notes" at the end of the subject pdf. Consequently I am contacting you to try to locate documents that provide appropriate scientific details. I am particularly interested in the specific basis for the calculation of the dispersed (naturally and chemically), and evaporated or dissolved oil, as the calculations seem to indicate that these components account for the disappearance about 1/2 of the original spilled oil volume.

In a matter of such importance it is essential that the scientific community be able to examine the basis for these calculations.

Sincerely,

Lynn Gelhar

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Lynn W. Gelhar

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