

40891832-55983-16808-143-64

From: Barbara W Wainman <bwainman@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tue, 17 Aug 2010 15:36:55
To: GS FOIA 0134 <foia0134@usgs.gov>
Subject: Fw: Message to John Ohly

Barbara W. Wainman
DirectorGS FOIA 0134/OTP/USGS/DOI
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 03:36 PM

From: Kathleen K Gohn/DO/USGS/DOI

To: Barbara W Wainman/DO/USGS/DOI@USGS

Cc: Timothy J West <twest@usgs.gov>, Bill Lukas <wluкас@usgs.gov>

Date: 08/11/2010 10:18 AM

40891832-55983-16808-143-64

Subject: Re: Fwd: Message to John Ohly

Sky has proposed a generic answer [see below] - but my concern is that any answer will just perpetuate the conversation. So should we just have him say that this was a multi-agency effort and NOAA is handling all inquiries? And I'll get contacts for NOAA's media and Congressional folks to include.
k

from Sky:

People are still finding the document where my email is unfortunately permanently etched and asking questions. This one is from a reporter with the Huffington Post. I answered his basic logistical question about the material already posted online, and I would like to just use the basic statement (slightly modified from the earlier version) I sent earlier as a canned response about this effort. Do you have any problem with me going ahead and sending this, or should I put him off? Thank you.

The Deepwater Horizon MC252 Gulf Incident Oil Budget Calculator is a joint effort of scientists and engineers from government, academia, and industry. The development of the tool has included leadership from NOAA who have provided a team of federal and independent oil fate and behavior scientists, from the US Coast Guard who have responsibility for response tracking and data input, from NIST who have provided the statistical

40891832-55983-16808-143-64

approach and scientific program, and from USGS who have contributed a team of computer scientists. The scientific paper that details the calculations and assumptions, documents the model, and provides the basis for the technological tool is being assembled from several working documents and will be undergoing approval processes for final publication. The overall model and its underlying assumptions have been through rigorous scientific review by a multi-organization team of experts whose work will be cataloged as part of the peer review process. This combined paper is not out yet, but it will be released into the scientific literature as soon as possible.

Kathleen Gohn
Deputy Congressional Liaison Officer
U.S. Geological Survey
703-648-4242
kgohn@usgs.gov

From: Barbara W Wainman/DO/USGS/DOI

To: Bill Lukas <wlukas@usgs.gov>

Cc: Kathleen K Gohn <kgohn@usgs.gov>, Timothy J West <twest@usgs.gov>

Date: 08/11/2010 10:14 AM

40891832-55983-16808-143-64
Subject: Re: Fwd: Message to John Ohly

Yes this is a NOAA thing I think it is theirs to manage and only if they really insisted that we join them should we consider if and who

Barbara W. Wainman
Director
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Reston, VA 20192

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From: Bill Lukas <wlukas@usgs.gov>

To: Barbara W Wainman <bwainman@usgs.gov>, Kathleen K Gohn
<kgohn@usgs.gov>, Timothy J West <twest@usgs.gov>

Date: 08/10/2010 09:38 PM

Subje Fwd: Message to John Ohly

40891832-55983-16808-143-64

ct:

I'm not sure about whether we want to be part of this or not. But it's ramping up. Now Sky is getting media calls. I think we should have them all go to NOAA. Is that not correct?

Kathleen this is still hot.

-- Bill Lukáš

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Stephen E Hammond" <sehammon@usgs.gov>
Date: August 10, 2010 6:19:16 AM PDT
To: Jason Rolfe <Jason.Rolfe@noaa.gov>
Cc: Jennifer Austin <Jennifer.Austin@noaa.gov>, William Conner <William.Conner@noaa.gov>, Bill Lehr <Bill.Lehr@noaa.gov>, Mark W Miller <Mark.W.Miller@noaa.gov>, Michael Jarvis <Michael.Jarvis@noaa.gov>, Amanda Hallberg <Amanda.Hallberg@noaa.gov>, Nathalie Valette-Silver <Nathalie.Valette-Silver@noaa.gov>, "William A Lukas" <wlukas@usgs.gov>, "Kathleen K Gohn" <kgohn@usgs.gov>, "Anne-Berry Wade" <abwade@usgs.gov>, "Sky Bristol" <sbristol@usgs.gov>, "Mark K Sogge" <mark_sogge@usgs.gov>, "Stephen E Hammond" <sehammon@usgs.gov>
Subject: Re: Fwd: Re: Message to John Ohly

40891832-55983-16808-143-64

Thanks Jason and Jen,

I've included folks from USGS Office of Communications (OC).

I think a press brief and Congressional responses would be on similar but different tracks.

Our OC would organize any press briefing and determine who should take part. I think the USGS desires to respond to this request soon and then perhaps think in broader terms about the communications strategy that will best meet our collective needs.

Steve

Stephen E. Hammond
US Geological Survey
Chief Emergency Operations Office,
National Geospatial Program
Reston, VA
703-648-5033 (w)
703-624-0824 (c)
703-648- 5792 (fax)

-----Jason Rolfe <Jason.Rolfe@noaa.gov> wrote: -----

To: Jennifer Austin <Jennifer.Austin@noaa.gov>
From: Jason Rolfe <Jason.Rolfe@noaa.gov>
Date: 08/10/2010 08:47AM
cc: William Conner <William.Conner@noaa.gov>, Bill Lehr <Bill.Lehr@noaa.gov>

40891832-55983-16808-143-64

>, Mark W Miller <Mark.W.Miller@noaa.gov>, Michael Jarvis <Michael.Jarvis@noaa.gov>, Amanda Hallberg <Amanda.Hallberg@noaa.gov>, Stephen E Hammond <sehammon@usgs.gov>, Nathalie Valette-Silver <Nathalie.Valette-Silver@noaa.gov>

Subject: Re: Fwd: Re: Message to John Ohly

Thank you Jen, I've added Steve Hammond to this so he can see our status.

Jason

On 8/10/2010 8:38 AM, Jennifer Austin wrote:

> Hi Jason, copying Mike Jarvis and Amanda Hallberg, NOAA leg affairs,
> so they can weigh in. They are working to organize a congressional
> briefing on the topic. Perhaps it makes sense to do the briefing
> jointly with Steve Hammond or someone from USGS.

>

> I defer to them on if they'd like to answer this in writing first, or
> just wait for the briefing.

>

> In terms of the response here I would say yes, Bill Lehr is the one to
> answer more detailed questions about the calculations, but if we're
> writing back to the hill, let's direct their questions to our
> legislative affairs shop, who can work with Bill on answers, so he
> doesn't get swamped by direct inquiries.

>

> And I would not characterize the technical report as "undergoing
> government review" but rather would say,
> The scientific paper that details the calculations and assumptions,
> documents the model, and provides the basis for the technological tool
> *still undergoing approval processes through government channels for
> final publication.** takes time to write and is still being finalized

40891832-55983-16808-143-64

> by the science team *(which I believe is true). *In the interest of
> informing the public, the shorter explanatory report was issued as
> soon as possible. * The overall model and its underlying assumptions
> have been through rigorous scientific review by a multi-organization
> team of experts whose work will be cataloged as part of the peer
> review *of the final documentation.*

>

> Jason Rolfe wrote:

>> Jen, have you been contacted by USGS staff regarding the RFI from Rep
>> John Ohly? I just received this from the USGS rep here at the NIC. It
>> would seem to me that Bill Lehr would be an appropriate name to
>> provide regarding model questions. I heard on this morning's 8 am
>> NOAA leadership call that Bill is committed already to providing
>> testimony regarding this work. Is that accurate? Is it related to
>> this request?

>>

>> Please let me know how you suggest we proceed. Thank you,

>> Jason

>>

>> ----- Original Message -----

>> Subject: Fw: Re: Message to John Ohly

>> Date: Tue, 10 Aug 2010 08:05:49 -0400

>> From: Stephen E Hammond <sehammon@usgs.gov>

>> To: Jason.Rolfe@noaa.gov

>> CC: Stephen E Hammond <sehammon@usgs.gov>, Mark.W.Miller@noaa.gov

>>

>>

>>

>> Jason,

>> My apologies. Here is a recap of the e-mail I intended to send you
>> yesterday but apparently was not delivered. I've included the e-mail
>> thread below.

>> Last Thursday, Aug 5th, Sky Bristol of USGS received a request from
>> John Ohly, staffer for Darrell Issa (CA), Committee on Oversight and
>> Government Reform. You may recall that Sky is the team lead the USGS
>> application design team for the web-based Oil Budget Calculator.

>> ***Here is a summary of his request to USGS.***

>> 1. Do you all intend to publish/make public the specific
>> data/calculations/statistical model used for the report?

>>

>> 2. What was the peer-review process for the reports (ie who was
>> involved, how it was executed)?

>>

>> Any information you can share would be greatly appreciated.

>> ****

>> We have drafted response that will want to share with NOAA for review
>> and comment as we work with you to manage the broader communication
>> related to this issue. USGS also requests that NOAA provide a
>> referral or point of contact for Oil Budget Calculator we can include
>> in our response to Mr. Ohly.

>> *** USGS Draft response begin ***

>> The Deepwater Horizon MC252 Gulf Incident Oil Budget Calculator is a
>> joint effort of scientists and engineers from government, academia,
>> and industry. The development of the tool has included leadership
>> from NOAA who have provided a team federal and independent oil fate
>> and behavior scientists, from the US Coast Guard who have
>> responsibility for fate of oil tracking and data input, from NIST who
>> has provided a team of statisticians, and from USGS who has
>> contributed a team of computer scientists. The scientific paper that
>> details the calculations and assumptions, documents the model, and
>> provides the basis for the technological tool is still undergoing
>> approval processes through government channels for final publication.
>> The overall model and its underlying assumptions have been through

40891832-55983-16808-143-64

>> rigorous scientific review by a multi-organization team of experts
>> whose work will be cataloged as part of the peer review process.

>>

>> The data that have been used in the calculator include direct
>> measurements and estimates made in the field and recorded in the tool
>> by USCG personnel with National Incident Command. The underlying
>> daily data and the actual scientific program used to calculate the
>> oil budget will be made available as part of the final report that is
>> in draft.

>>

>> As overall scientific lead for the Oil Budget Calculator, questions
>> about the model can be referred to _____ with the National Oceanic
>> and Atmospheric Administration.

>> *** USGS Draft response end ***

>>

>> Stephen E. Hammond
>> US Geological Survey
>> Chief Emergency Operations Office,
>> National Geospatial Program
>> Reston, VA
>> 703-648-5033 (w)
>> 703-624-0824 (c)
>> 703-648- 5792 (fax)

>>

>> -----Forwarded by Stephen E Hammond/GEOG/USGS/DOI on 08/10/2010

>> 07:45AM -----

>>

>> To: Stephen E Hammond <sehammon@usgs.gov>
>> From: Bill Lukas <wlukas@usgs.gov>
>> Date: 08/09/2010 10:50AM
>> cc: "Kathleen K Gohn" <kgohn@usgs.gov>, "Clarice E Ransom"
>> <cransom@usgs.gov>, "Anne-Berry Wade" <abwade@usgs.gov>, "Sky

>> Bristol" <sbristol@usgs.gov>

>> Subject: Re: Message to John Ohly

>>

>> Thanks Steve

>>

>> I think this is good. If the other members of the team are happy
>> with it then we should go ahead and respond. Also, it will be good
>> to provide a NOAA point of contact for John Ohley to reach.

>>

>>

>>

>> Bill Lukas

>> - - - - -

>> *U.S. Geological Survey *

>> Office of Communications

>> 119 National Center

>> Reston, VA 20192

>> Office: (703) 648-6168

>> Fax: (703) 648-5427

>> Mobile: (703) 342-6407

>>

>> On Aug 9, 2010, at 9:34 AM, Stephen E Hammond wrote:

>>

>>> Good Morning Kathleen, et.al.,

>>> The draft below was prepared by Sky Bristol (I made a few
>>> additions and modifications) as a potential response to questions
>>> from John Ohny that sky received last week. We need the help of
>>> the OC to manage this response and look to you for guidance on
>>> next steps.

>>> Sky and the other organizations who have been associated with the
>>> tool are in the process of preparing documentation we hope to

40891832-55983-16808-143-64

>>> complete fairly soon. However, at present there is no formal
>>> document ready for distribution. The team does have a robust
>>> paper trail to documents requirements and decisions.
>>> Please advise on how you'd like me to coordinate with NOAA at
>>> this end. Let Sky and I know how we can assist in this process.
>>> Thank you,
>>> Steve

>>>

>>> Stephen E. Hammond
>>> US Geological Survey
>>> Chief Emergency Operations Office,
>>> National Geospatial Program
>>> Reston, VA
>>> 703-648-5033 (w)
>>> 703-624-0824 (c)
>>> 703-648- 5792 (fax)

>>>

>>> -----Forwarded by Stephen E Hammond/GEOG/USGS/DOI on 08/09/2010
>>> 09:16AM -----

>>>

>>> To: "Stephen E Hammond" <sehammon@usgs.gov>
>>> <mailto:sehammon@usgs.gov>>

>>> From: Sky Bristol <sbristol@usgs.gov>
>>> <mailto:sbristol@usgs.gov>>

>>> Date: 08/06/2010 10:01AM

>>> Subject: Re: Message to John Ohly

>>>

>>> I'm thinking something along these lines:

>>>

>>> The Deepwater Horizon MC252 Gulf Incident Oil Budget
>>> Calculator is a joint effort of scientists and engineers from
>>> government, academia, and industry. The development of the

>>> tool has included leadership from NOAA who have provided a
>>> team federal and independent oil fate and behavior
>>> scientists, from the US Coast Guard who have responsibility
>>> for fate of oil tracking and data input, from NIST who has
>>> provided a team of statisticians, and from USGS who has
>>> contributed a team of computer scientists. The scientific
>>> paper that details the calculations and assumptions,
>>> documents the model, and provides the basis for the
>>> technological tool is still undergoing approval processes
>>> through government channels for final publication. The
>>> overall model and its underlying assumptions have been
>>> through rigorous scientific review by a multi-organization
>>> team of experts whose work will be cataloged as part of the
>>> peer review process.

>>>
>>> The data that have been used in the calculator include direct
>>> measurements and estimates made in the field and recorded in
>>> the tool by USCG personnel with National Incident Command.
>>> The underlying daily data and the actual scientific program
>>> used to calculate the oil budget will be made available as
>>> part of the final report that is in draft.

>>>
>>> As overall scientific lead for the Oil Budget Calculator,
>>> questions about the model can be referred to _____ with the
>>> National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

>>> <.(((<<<<~~~~<.(((<<<<~~~~<.(((<<<<
>>> Sky Bristol
>>> sbristol@usgs.gov <mailto:sbristol@usgs.gov>
>>> office: 303-202-4181
>>> cell: 303-241-4122

>>> <.((((<<<~~~~<.((((<<<~~~~<.((((<<<

>>>

>>> On Aug 5, 2010, at 4:17 PM, Stephen E Hammond wrote:

>>>

>>>> I heard that Bill is out of pocket today on leave. Mark
>>>> Miller heads home to Seattle tomorrow. Gohn has given us
>>>> some room with her email. She bcc'd me. Let's work together
>>>> to get a draft together. It may not get sent tomorrow based
>>>> on OC support. They actually send the response.

>>>>

>>>> About to hop the subway.

>>>> -----

>>>> Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>> * From: *Sky Bristol [sbristol@usgs.gov

>>>> <mailto:sbristol@usgs.gov>]

>>>> * Sent: *08/05/2010 04:06 PM CST

>>>> * To: *Stephen Hammond

>>>> * Subject: *Fwd: Message to John Ohly

>>>>

>>>>

>>>> Steve,

>>>>

>>>> Here's how Kathleen decided to handle this for now. I'll
>>>> draft a response predicated on NOAA/NIST moving forward with
>>>> some form of public release of the model.

>>>>

40891832-55983-16808-143-64

>>>> Can you help work that angle there with Mark Miller in
>>>> particular. I have not heard from Bill Lehr or been able to
>>>> reach him via the number I had. I've just sent another email
>>>> plea that was copied to you.

>>>>

>>>> <.((((<<<<~~~~<.((((<<<<~~~~<.((((<<<<

>>>> Sky Bristol
>>>> sbristol@usgs.gov <mailto:sbristol@usgs.gov>
>>>> office: 303-202-4181
>>>> cell: 303-241-4122

>>>> <.((((<<<<~~~~<.((((<<<<~~~~<.((((<<<<

>>>>

>>>> Begin forwarded message:

>>>>

>>>>> *From: *Kathleen K Gohn <kgohn@usgs.gov
>>>>> <mailto:kgohn@usgs.gov>
>>>>> *Date: *August 5, 2010 1:44:32 PM MDT
>>>>> *To: *John.Ohly@mail.house.gov
>>>>> <mailto:John.Ohly@mail.house.gov>
>>>>> *Cc: *Sky Bristol <sbristol@usgs.gov
>>>>> <mailto:sbristol@usgs.gov>>, William A Lukas <
>>>>> wlukas@usgs.gov <mailto:wlukas@usgs.gov>>

>>>>>

>>>>>

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>>>>>

John,
we apologize for the delay in responding to your questions
below. Sky is
actually not the right person to provide answers to these
questions, but we

40891832-55983-16808-143-64

>>>> are tracking the answers down and will get them to you as
>>>> soon as we can. I
>>>> will be out of the office for a few days, so my colleague
>>>> Bill Lukas [cc'ed
>>>> on this message] will likely be following up if we have
>>>> anything for you
>>>> before I return.
>>>> cheers,
>>>> Kathleen

>>>>
>>>> Kathleen Gohn
>>>> Deputy Congressional Liaison Officer
>>>> U.S. Geological Survey
>>>> 703-648-4242
>>>> kgohn@usgs.gov <mailto:kgohn@usgs.gov>

>>>>
>>>>
>>>> From: "Ohly, John" <John.ohly@mail.house.gov
>>>> <mailto:John.ohly@mail.house.gov>>
>>>> Date: August 5, 2010 11:17:13 AM MDT
>>>> To: "'Sky Bristol'" <sbristol@usgs.gov
>>>> <mailto:sbristol@usgs.gov>>
>>>> Subject: Follow-up Question

>>>>
>>>> Good Afternoon Sky,
>>>>
>>>> Thank you again for your assistance yesterday afternoon.
>>>> while I
>>>> understand you may be quite busy right now, I am still
>>>> interested in
>>>> understanding two points:
>>>>

