

4140101226-16820-19602-179-109

From: Barbara W Wainman <bwainman@usgs.gov>  
Sent: Tue, 17 Aug 2010 15:37:02  
To: GS FOIA 0134 <foia0134@usgs.gov>  
Subject: Fw: Message to John Ohly

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 03:36 PM

-----

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

4140101226-16820-19602-179-109

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  
Office of Communications and Outreach  
US Geological Survey  
119 National Center  
Reston, VA 20192

(703) 648-5750

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

4140101226-16820-19602-179-109

Subject: Fwd: Message to John Ohly

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

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

4140101226-16820-19602-179-109

cc: 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>, 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  
> 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

4140101226-16820-19602-179-109

>> 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

>> 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

4140101226-16820-19602-179-109

>> 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  
>>> 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

4140101226-16820-19602-179-109

>>> 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, form 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

4140101226-16820-19602-179-109

>>> 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

4140101226-16820-19602-179-109

>>>> <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.

>>>>

>>>> 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>>

4140101226-16820-19602-179-109

>>>>> \*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>>

>>>>>

>>>>>

>>>>>

>>>>>

>>>>> 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

>>>>> 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



4140101226-16820-19602-179-109  
>>>> 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:

>>>>  
>>>> 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.

4140101226-16820-19602-179-109

>>>>>

>>>>>

Regards,

>>>>>

John

>>>>>

>>>>>

John Ohly

>>>>>

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

>>>>>

Ranking Member- Rep. Darrell Issa (CA-49)

>>>>>

(202)-225-5074

>>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>