

3445773167-22809-19978-163-241

From: Clarice E Ransom <cransom@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tue, 17 Aug 2010 15:48:58
To: GS FOIA 0134 <foia0134@usgs.gov>
Subject: Fw: Message to John Ohly

Sincerely,

Clarice Nassif Ransom
Public Affairs Specialist
Office of Communications
U.S. Geological Survey
703-648-4299
cransom@usgs.gov
www.usgs.gov

----- Forwarded by Clarice E Ransom/DO/USGS/DOI on 08/17/2010 03:48 PM

From: Sky Bristol <sbristol@usgs.gov>

To: Bill Lukas <wlukas@usgs.gov>

Cc: Stephen E Hammond <sehammon@usgs.gov>, "Kathleen K Gohn" <kgohn@usgs.gov>, "Clarice E Ransom" <cransom@usgs.gov>, "Anne-Berry Wade" <abwade@usgs.gov>

Date: 08/10/2010 09:33 AM

Subject: Re: Message to John Ohly

Here is a revised statement after some input from colleagues at NOAA and NIST. I also understand that the lead scientist with NOAA, Bill Lehr, is preparing an editorial article with several colleagues for possible release that discusses the process a little bit further as we work toward the scientific paper.

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 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 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. We will keep you informed as the paper is published after going through the appropriate fundamental science practices within the respective agencies.

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

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On Aug 9, 2010, at 8:50 AM, Bill Lukas wrote:

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

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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.,

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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
Chief Emergency Operations Office,
National Geospatial Program
Reston, VA
703-648-5033 (w)
703-624-0824 (c)
703-648- 5792 (fax)

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

To: "Stephen E Hammond" <sehammon@usgs.gov>
From: Sky Bristol <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

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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.

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

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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

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From: Sky Bristol [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.

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Sky Bristol
sbristol@usgs.gov
office: 303-202-4181
cell: 303-241-4122
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Begin forwarded message:

From: Kathleen K Gohn <kgohn@usgs.gov >
Date: August 5, 2010 1:44:32 PM MDT
To: John.Ohly@mail.house.gov

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Cc: Sky Bristol < sbristol@usgs.gov >, William A
Lukas < 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
Deputy Congressional Liaison Officer
U.S. Geological Survey
703-648-4242
kgohn@usgs.gov

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

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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.

Regards,

John

John Ohly

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

Ranking Member- Rep. Darrell Issa (CA-49)
(202)-225-5074

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