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From: Barbara W Wainman <bwainman@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tue, 17 Aug 2010 15:59:47
To: GS FOIA 0134 <foia0134@usgs.gov>
Subject: Fw: Wrap up from Oil spill

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----- Forwarded by Barbara W Wainman/DO/USGS/DOI on 08/17/2010 03:59 PM

From: Stephen E Hammond/GEOG/USGS/DOI

To: GS GIRT oil spill

Cc: Hazard Response Executive Committee@USGS.gov, Stephen E Hammond/GEOG/USGS/DOI@USGS

Date: 08/06/2010 01:18 PM

Subject: Fw: Wrap up from Oil spill

Good Afternoon,

My assignment here at the National Incident Command is reaching its end. I wanted to pass on this note sent from by Director McNutt earlier today. Clearly the Geospatial Information Response Team and geospatial community have had a huge impact on this response. I cannot thank you enough for your efforts over the past 108 days. Your active participation and contributions to the GIRT and other activities have had a large impact on our Bureau's ability to respond to questions, document conditions and help maintain our situational awareness.

As Director McNutt has noted, the GIRT was the first of the USGS hazards teams to activate on April 22nd. Our colleagues at the National Wetlands Research Center activated and deployed the SRV shortly thereafter to provide a variety of products to our DOI sister bureaus and the Coast Guard. NGTOC helped deliver a variety of products .We provided on-site geospatial support to the DOI Interagency Operations Center where the Secretary and other senior DOI officials looked to USGS products to see what had changed since the last report. EROS Center served up a tremendous amount of imagery non-stop for first responders and the public and facilitated the remote sensing work group calls. You prepared google applications to illustrate where we were sampling and collecting a variety of information. Many of you proactively prepared and shared map products

knowing that the call for them would come. More recently we have stepped up to lead the NRDA Aerial Imagery Technical Group which until USGS stepped up had no leadership. I especially want to acknowledge and thank Mike Hutt who stepped to the leadership role of the GIRT when I was unable to be there. This certainly is not an exhaustive list of all that you have helped the bureau to accomplish but it is illustrative of how we have helped one another the bureau and the country.

Back in May I asked that you keep track of those lessons we can use to assist us in the future. As the Director has asked below, if you have not done so, please take some time to document your contributions to this response and identify lessons learned. I would appreciate it if you would share your document with both your supervisor and with me so that I can have a full view of all the GIRT and bureau has accomplished. There are likely to be numerous other requests for information so make sure that you retain everything you have that is associated with this response.

Again thanks for a job well done. I am privileged to work with you and for what I believe is the best science agency in the world.

Best,
Steve

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-----Forwarded by Stephen E Hammond/GEOG/USGS/DOI on 08/06/2010 11:31AM

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From: Marcia K McNutt/DO/USGS/DOI

Date: 08/06/2010 11:16AM

cc: Mark K Sogge/DO/USGS/DOI, Judy J Nowakowski/DO/USGS/DOI@USGS, Barbara W Wainman/DO/USGS/DOI, Suzette M Kimball/DO/USGS/DOI@USGS

Subject: wrap up from oil spill

Dear USGS Team:

First and foremost, I want to thank you all for the great work here in Houston, along the Gulf shores, or support from afar, during the past 4 months. I know I speak for the Secretary when I say that this small team represented DOI very well. I have kept him informed of your immense contributions in my weekly reports, and been rewarded on numerous occasions by carefully penned, handwritten notes returned from the Secretary expressing his admiration for how your science carried the day.

There is no question that Paul's reservoir modeling, Walter and Cathy's seismic interpretation, and Steve's stress calculations changed the course of the oil spill dramatically, likely reducing by untold ten's of thousands of barrels of oil the amount of oil released into the ocean, by

quantifying well integrity as a function of time.

One favor to ask of all of you. While it is fresh in your mind, please jot down a chronicle of your contributions to the spill effort. I know that Walter has talked about actually writing an OFR on well integrity, which I think is a totally super idea as we had to come up with the methods from scratch as there wasn't a handbook for how to establish the integrity of a suspect well once it was shut in (at a suspect pressure) in the face of a panel of serious doubters. But you need not write an official OFR - any sort of chronicle that is a useful record of how you spent your time would be helpful as we attempt to go back later and piece together the story.

Many USGS teams that have contributed to the fact that we seem to be closing in on victory - Steve Hammond will hopefully get his GIS folks to document their efforts as they were in it from day 1, guiding the bigger response picture by providing the view of where the oil was. Sky was a total rock star with the oil budget calculator, earning kudos all the way to the Oval Office. Vic and Roger used AVIRIS in a totally new way to quantify the oil on the water in a great collaboration with NASA.

Sonya and Majorie were also there from Day 1, standing up two critical teams to deal with oil spill science and oil spill response. In terms of sheer science-power and science-hours, their team efforts were the greatest and will continue until the last oil is gone.

Thanks again, everyone. This is indeed one of the USGS's proudest moments.

Marcia

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