

693799236-2999-18136-189-98

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Sent: Tue, 17 Aug 2010 15:39:07
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Subject: Fw: Wrap up from Oil spill

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Date: 08/06/2010 11:16 AM

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

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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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