

671305198-47041-17093-172-202

From: Barbara W Wainman <bwainman@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tue, 17 Aug 2010 17:01:17
To: GS FOIA 0134 <foia0134@usgs.gov>
Subject: Fw: 3:00 congressional call on wednesday

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 05:00 PM

From: Kathleen K Gohn/DO/USGS/DOI

To: "Mansour, Christopher" <Christopher_Mansour@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "Urban, Heather" <Heather_Urban@ios.doi.gov>, "West, Timothy J" <twest@usgs.gov>, Barbara W

Wainman/DO/USGS/DOI@USGS

Date: 08/17/2010 04:39 PM

Subject: RE: 3:00 congressional call on wednesday

Christopher and Heather,

here are the results of a quick check with our scientists - basically, the USGS provided the web tool, the technological framework that runs the model that was developed by NIST using calculations provided by the NOAA-led science team. Our response should focus on our role in crafting the oil budget tool, while gracefully handing the questions about the "science" over to NOAA, Is anyone from NIST on the call tomorrow? or just USGS and NOAA?

We do plan a quick call tomorrow to discuss how to answer this, but I wanted to give you both a heads-up on the likely direction we will take.

Kathleen

Kathleen Gohn

Deputy Congressional Liaison Officer

U.S. Geological Survey

703-648-4242

kgohn@usgs.gov

From: "Mansour, Christopher" <Christopher_Mansour@ios.doi.gov>

671305198-47041-17093-172-202

To: "Urban, Heather" <Heather_Urban@ios.doi.gov>, "Gohn, Kathleen K" <kgohn@usgs.gov>

Cc: "West, Timothy J" <twest@usgs.gov>

Date: 08/17/2010 01:39 PM

Subject: RE: 3:00 congressional call on wednesday

We will need an answer to this Wall Street Journal article
The USGS presenters should be prepared to respond to question citing this
Univ of Georgia study

Christopher

Much Oil Remains in Gulf, Researchers Estimate

Wall Street Journal

Robert Lee Hotz

08/17/10

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704868604575434074237252604.html>

Researchers at the University of Georgia said Monday that more than
three-quarters of the oil spilled in the Gulf of Mexico following the

Deepwater Horizon drilling-rig explosion could still be in the Gulf threatening fisheries and marine life, disputing government statements that much of the oil had been safely dispersed.

The federal National Incident Command, which has been coordinating clean-up efforts, reported earlier this month that the damaged well had spewed about 4.9 million barrels of oil into the Gulf before it was capped. Half of that oil had been safely burned off, skimmed, or directly recovered and another 25% had evaporated or dissolved, the federal researchers said.

Both the UGA assessment and the federal calculations it contradicts are estimates based on incomplete information. Federal researchers cautioned that their results would be refined as better information became available. The UGA team, which has been at the forefront of investigating the underwater oil plumes created by the leaking well, took a closer look at the government's calculations and came to a more pessimistic conclusion: As much as 79% of the oil and its toxic byproducts still remained in the subsurface waters of the Gulf.

Moreover, it might easily be years before these petrochemicals disappear. "One major misconception is that oil that has dissolved into water is gone and, therefore, harmless," said UGA marine scientist Charles Hopkinson, the senior investigator in the effort. "The oil is still out there, and it will likely take years to completely degrade."

Federal researchers involved in preparing the earlier estimate couldn't be reached for comment late Monday. Officials at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Washington and New Orleans also couldn't be reached for comment.

In a statement, Dr. Hopkinson said most of the oil classified by the government as dispersed, dissolved or residual was actually still in the water. Using a range of likely evaporation and degradation estimates, the group calculated that 70% to 79% of oil spilled into the Gulf still remains.

The group said it was impossible for all the dissolved oil to have

671305198-47041-17093-172-202

evaporated because only oil at the surface of the ocean can evaporate into the atmosphere and large plumes of oil are trapped in deep water.

The UGA study hasn't yet been published, nor has it been peer-reviewed by independent researchers.

From: Urban, Heather
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2010 12:05 PM
To: Gohn, Kathleen K
Cc: Mansour, Christopher; West, Timothy J
Subject: Re: 3:00 congressional call on wednesday

I will send the call in number tomorrow.

From: Kathleen K Gohn <kgohn@usgs.gov>
To: Urban, Heather
Cc: Mansour, Christopher; West, Timothy J
Sent: Tue Aug 17 12:01:08 2010
Subject: Re: 3:00 congressional call on wednesday

Heather,

There will be two technical people from USGS on the call: Sky Bristol and Steve Hammond. They have been the most actively involved in the USCG/NOAA oil budget activities. Sky led the USGS technical team that created the web-based oil budget tool. This team used the formulas and calculations provided by NOAA, and consulted closely with USCG to learn their data input

671305198-47041-17093-172-202

and presentation needs. Steve has mostly been engaged in a liaison role with the NOAA and USCG people working with the oil budget tool at the National Incident Command.

I will also plan to sit in. When will the call-in information be available?

thanks,

Kathleen

Kathleen Gohn

Deputy Congressional Liaison Officer

U.S. Geological Survey

703-648-4242

kgohn@usgs.gov

From: "Urban, Heather" <Heather_Urban@ios.doi.gov>

To: "Gohn, Kathleen K" <kgohn@usgs.gov>

Cc: "Mansour, Christopher" <Christopher_Mansour@ios.doi.gov>, "West, Timothy J" <twest@usgs.gov>

Date: 08/17/2010 08:41 AM

Subje Re: 3:00 congressional call on wednesday
ct:

671305198-47041-17093-172-202

Kathleen- do you have someone for the call? Can you send us the name of the person? Thanks!

From: Kathleen K Gohn <kgohn@usgs.gov>
To: Urban, Heather
Cc: Mansour, Christopher; West, Timothy J
Sent: Fri Aug 13 11:10:12 2010
Subject: Re: 3:00 congressional call on Wednesday

Heather,
will do. Thanks for the heads up! I'll let you know the name when I have tracked the right person down.
cheers,
Kathleen

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

From: "Urban, Heather" <Heather_Urban@ios.doi.gov>

671305198-47041-17093-172-202

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

Cc: "Mansour, Christopher" <Christopher_Mansour@ios.doi.gov>

Date: 08/13/2010 11:07 AM

Subject 3:00 congressional call on wednesday

:

Hi

On wednesday, there will be a congressional call with a presentation on the oil budget. NOAA is going to present, but wanted someone from USGS to be on the call as well to help answer questions. Can you help us find someone for the call?

Thanks,
Heather

Heather Urban
Deputy Director of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
202-208-6174

671305198-47041-17093-172-202