

**From:** "Charlie Henry" <charlie.henry@noaa.gov>  
**To:** "Christine Blackburn" <christine.blackburn@noaa.gov>  
**Cc:** "Bill Lehr" <bill.lehr@noaa.gov>, william.conner <william.conner@noaa.gov>, Dave.Westerholm <dave.westerholm@noaa.gov>, "Janet Baran" <janet.baran@noaa.gov>  
**Bcc:**  
**Date:** Thu, 14 Oct 2010 03:11:01 PM  
**Subject:** Re: questions  
**Attachments:**

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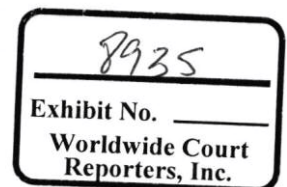
2. The report says that on April 28 Landry reported the new estimate to be "as much as" 5000 bbls/day. Is that true? Where were we saying "at least 5000 bbls/day"?

The point has been lost in that the estimate only showed that, based on a relatively conservative assessment of the surface oil on a particular day discounted for expected evaporation and other losses, the volume was "as much as 5000 bbl/day" or more. I think that during this time I probably said it more than one way, probably several ways, and this estimate was nothing more than our best assessment based on a limited amount of data very early in the response. It was what it was. I think that I also said it as we estimate the value to be 5000 bbls or more, as much as 5000 bbls, and at least 5000 bbls... such variance in the grammar used reflects the uncertainty at the time (anfter being asked this question so many times, I'm not sure the exact way it was stated anymore from memory). We really didn't know the volume, but we knew the value was greater than 1000 bbls and the aerial estimate showed such. We did not prepare this information for a press release or as a definitive answer, but the USCG used it in a press conference. That estimate was only prepared to argue that the 1000 bbl value was clearly low... we applied what science we could at the time, and that effort indicated the value was closer to 5000 bbls. An estimate is an estimate... It was the best working number we had at the time. It was generated to put pressure on BP's experts to provide a better release estimate as they had more information than anyone else... but the didn't. We didn't know then, and still don't know what the true release rate was at different times. The release rate, most folks believe, did vary from very early to when the the release was secured.

I would be happy to talk with in person about this as I'm currently up in the war room. Take care,  
Charlie

Christine Blackburn wrote:

>  
> Hi Bill, Bill, Charlie, and Dave,  
>  
> I have a few things I need clarified and was hoping that you might be  
> able to help.  
>  
> 1. When were the NASA/AVRIS data analyzed and by whom? How did it  
> contribute to the timeline in the Commission report – were the  
> official estimates changed because of it...did it help to refine the  
> Plume Team work?  
>



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> 2. The report says that on April 28 Landry reported the new estimate  
> to be "as much as" 5000 bbls/day. Is that true? Where were we saying  
> "at least 5000 bbls/day"?  
>  
> 3. Does the National Contingency Plan outline how decisions on the  
> flow rate and fishery closures will be made? The Commission claims  
> that these were made ad hoc (i.e., outside the NCP structure), and I  
> just want to make sure this is true.  
>  
> 4. What was the role of the NIC-create Interagency Solutions Group in  
> seafood safety monitoring and fishery closures?  
>  
> Thanks,  
>  
> Chris  
>  
> --  
> Christine Blackburn  
>  
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