

From: Debbie Payton on behalf of Debbie Payton [debbie.payton@noaa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2010 6:55:59 PM
To: Charlie Henry
Subject: Re: Fw: Oil Spill Commission Getbacks

well spoken in the third party voice. . . .
hope all is going well. did you catch many fish?

Charlie Henry wrote:

> Charlie said first that he had no idea how much oil was being
> released. On that first afternoon, a Friday, he passed on that the
> field observers were seeing oil droplets rising to the surface. When
> I asked, "how much oil?" The answer was who knows... more than 1000
> bbls maybe as much as 10,000 bbls. It was impossible to really know.
> By, Sunday, it was clear that the 1000 bbl number or initial estimate
> reported by BP and USCG in a press conference was low. Charlie asked
> the NOAA Home Team to provide some better estimate and justification.
> Bill provide a conservative estimate based on a field overflight and
> maybe some other insight... that value was at least 5000 bbl. That
> estimate was only used to push BP and MMS to generate a better
> estimate. They never came forward with a new estimate. They repeated
> Bill's effort with different values and came up with numbers lower and
> higher including something like 10,000 bbls/day, but that was only
> table top playing with the data. The 5000 bbl value was provided to
> the USCG as "NOAA estimates the spill rate at 5000 bbls or more per
> day" on Monday or at least before Tuesday morning. That number was
> thrown out in a press conference on the following Wed. night, and then
> had a life that such an estimate was never intended to have. I hope
> this helps. The point that I made most often was that we really don't
> know how much oil is being released. As it turned out, 5000 bbls/day
> was probably a low estimate for that time period as well, but Charlie
> never gave it as anything but a challenge to say that the spill was
> more than 1000 bbl/day. I hope this helps,
> Charlie

> Bill Lehr wrote:

>> Check with Charlie. I thought he said 5-10 K bbls

>>

>> On 11/16/10 1:50 PM, Debbie Payton wrote:

>>> yes, my memory is that Charlie said "at least 5,000 barrels/day"

>>>

>>> Doug Helton wrote:

>>>> Spring's memory jives with mine but can you guys confirm

>>>>

>>>> *From*: Margaret Spring [mailto:margaret.spring@noaa.gov]

>>>> *Sent*: Tuesday, November 16, 2010 04:08 PM

>>>> *To*: Christine Blackburn <Christine.Blackburn@noaa.gov>; Dave

>>>> Westerholm <Dave.Westerholm@noaa.gov>; 'sally.yozell@noaa.gov'

>>>> <Sally.Yozell@noaa.gov>; Kenney, Justin <Justin.kenney@noaa.gov>;

>>>> david.kennedy@noaa.gov <David.Kennedy@noaa.gov>;

>>>> 'Larry.Robinson1@noaa.gov' <Larry.Robinson1@noaa.gov>; Andrew Winer

>>>> <Andrew.Winer@noaa.gov>; Monica Medina <Monica.Medina@noaa.gov>;

>>>> Jainey Bavishi <Jainey.Bavishi@noaa.gov>; John Gray

>>>> <John.Gray@noaa.gov>; Amanda Hallberg <Amanda.Hallberg@noaa.gov>;

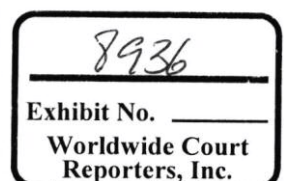
>>>> Lois Schiffer <Lois.Schiffer@noaa.gov>; William Conner

>>>> (william.conner@noaa.gov) <William.Conner@noaa.gov>; Margaret

>>>> Spring <Margaret.Spring@noaa.gov>; Doug Helton

>>>> <Doug.Helton@noaa.gov>; Jennifer Austin <Jennifer.Austin@noaa.gov>

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TREX 008936.0001

>>>> *Cc*: Jen.Pizza@noaa.gov <Jen.Pizza@noaa.gov>; Janet Baran
>>>> <Janet.Baran@noaa.gov>
>>>> *Subject*: RE: Oil Spill Commission Getbacks
>>>>
>>>>
>>>> Question - in the timeline - we say noaa assisted with the "5,000
>>>> barrel a day" estimate. I recall Charlie said his advice was "at
>>>> least 5,0000" - wanted to be sure we are consistent in how we talk
>>>> about that.
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>
>>>> Pls check ths.
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>
>>>> Margaret Spring
>>>>
>>>> Chief of Staff
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>>>> National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
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>>>> U.S. Department of Commerce
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>>>> 14th & Constitution Avenue NW, Room 7316
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>>>> Washington, DC 20230
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>>>> *From*: Christine Blackburn [mailto:Christine.Blackburn@noaa.gov]
>>>> *Sent*: Tuesday, November 16, 2010 12:39 PM
>>>> *To*: Dave Westerholm; 'sally.yozell@noaa.gov'; Kenney, Justin;
>>>> david.kennedy@noaa.gov; 'Larry.Robinson1@noaa.gov'; Andrew Winer;
>>>> Monica Medina; Jainey Bavishi; John Gray; Amanda Hallberg; Lois
>>>> Schiffer; William Conner (william.conner@noaa.gov); Margaret
>>>> Spring; Doug Helton; Jennifer Austin
>>>> *Cc*: Jen.Pizza@noaa.gov; Janet Baran
>>>> *Subject*: Oil Spill Commission Getbacks
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>
>>>> Hello everyone,
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>>>>
>>>> Attached are the documents that we will likely provide to the
>>>> Commission today. Please take a look at see if there are any points
>>>> we would like to make that are missing - or if there is something
>>>> that shouldn't be included. (We are still trying to track down the
>>>> specific numbers/reference for some things - so if you see
>>>> something that is incorrect, let me know.) Take a close look at the
>>>> comparison to Exxon Valdez on the first page of the Facts and
>>>> Information document - I am not sure it's appropriate to include
>>>> the direct comparison to DWH. I would hope they might be able to

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>>>> draw a similar conclusion on their own if we just provide the
>>>> Valdez timeline...but let me know what you think.
>>>>
>>>>
>>>> I am assuming at this point that *all these documents are public
>>>> except for the timeline*, which will be labeled with a FOIA
>>>> exemption. Please email me if this is not true.
>>>>
>>>>
>>>> I have really haven't heard from anyone that they can make a call
>>>> today...so either let me know now if you are available before 4pm, or
>>>> just give me a call directly if you have questions or concerns.
>>>>
>>>>
>>>> Let me reiterate that this is one of the last times we will be able
>>>> to provide this type of information to the Commission, so please
>>>> take a moment to look at all of this */before COB today/*.
>>>>
>>>>
>>>> Chris
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>>>>
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>>>>
>>>> Here is the original list of getbacks from Margaret:
>>>>
>>>> (1) The factual correction list for the 4 staff drafts
>>>>
>>>> (2) The list of NOAA external outreach during DWH, particularly
>>>> on science (meetings with academics, briefings, joint cruises/data
>>>> collection, etc.) Examples of our data transparency over and above
>>>> the past - NRDA data, Geoplatform, JAG reports online,
>>>>
>>>> (3) NOAA DWH timeline -- (DHS will get the "Administration
>>>> timeline" - if we want to specify NOAA timelines we can get them a
>>>> separate one)
>>>>
>>>> (4) NOAA by the numbers (all the vessels, people, etc, that we
>>>> had in play)
>>>>
>>>> (5) NOAA's role in the interagency processes, particularly the
>>>> operational and science ones, eg. NRT, JAG, as well as new ones
>>>> created outside of the NIC (eg fisheries)
>>>>
>>>> (6) List of websites where all our data and information can be
>>>> found (just a reference for them) - /I am having a issue getting
>>>> some of these because the Response and Restoration site seems to be
>>>> down??/
>>>>
>>>> (7) Anything missing from the staff drafts that YOU THINK WE
>>>> NEED TO HIGHLIGHT and provide info.
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[illegible]

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>>>> --
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>>>> National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
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>>>> Washington, DC 20230
>>>> direct: 202-482-2351 | mobile: [REDACTED]
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