

From: Bailey, Cindy E
Sent: Mon May 24 22:01:08 2010
To: G ANC ALT; Shepard, Samantha F; Eldred, John; AK, BST Alde de Camp
Subject: FW: Daily Media Talking Points and Activities - May 24, 2010
Importance: Normal
Attachments: att41b3.gif; Daily_Media_Plan and Approved Talking Points_05 23 10.DOC; Timeline - communications 5 23 10.xls

From: Mueller, Tom A
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2010 1:57 PM
To: G GPA NA (Employee only) 05.2010
Subject: FW: Daily Media Talking Points and Activities - May 24, 2010

FYI.

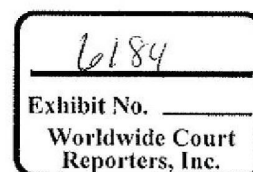
Tom Mueller
Press Officer
BP America
Cell: [REDACTED]

From: Guy Potvin [mailto:GPotvin@BrunswickGroup.com]
Sent: Sunday, May 23, 2010 11:12 PM
To: Becker, Erin (UNKNOWN BUSINESS PARTNER); G Press Office; G Press Office; G US Press Office; G Investor Relations; BP US
Cc: Verchere, Christina C; Hofer, Hanna; Proctor, Charles; McMahon, Shiva P; Wells, Kent; Chandran, Ruban K; Bickerton, David; Dudley, Robert; Suttles, Doug J; Looney, Bernard; Roberts, Jamie Y; Maguire, Niall J; OCHMANEK, ERIC(UNKNOWN BUSINESS PARTNER); stacey.silva@gmail.com; [REDACTED] Maguire, Niall J; Fryar, Robert T; greg@knoxes.us; [REDACTED] Roberts, Jamie Y; Pennington, Tom A; Rinehart, Steve C; Mueller, Tom A; Beaudou, Daren J; lbraden@mercuryllc.com; Hernandez, Frank
Subject: Daily Media Talking Points and Activities - May 23, 2010

All,

Please find attached today's media update plan and talking points, as well as the forward calendar.

Regards,
Guy



BP-HZN-BLY00102293

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May 24, 2010 Media/Communications Plan

Updated as of 11 PM CT on May 23, 2010. Note: Events and interviews need to be confirmed again on May 24th 8 am CT conference call.

External Communications Activities for May 24th

Press Conferences and Briefings

- TENTATIVE: Tony Hayward visit to impacted beach location with ABC News; followed by a brief comment/Q&A session with media

Interviews

- Doug Suttles broadcast television interviews:
 - 5:28-5:33 - GMA Pre-tape
 - 5:35-5:38 - Today Show Pre-tape
 - 5:40-5:47 - CNN Live
 - 5:50-6:00 - Fox and Friends Live
 - 6:05-6:15 - CBS Morning Live
- Bob Fryar regional radio interviews:
 - 7:35-7:45 - WWL-AM, New Orleans, LA
 - 7:48-7:58 - WRNO-FM, New Orleans, LA
 - 8:20-8:30 - WBUV-FM, Biloxi, MS
 - 8:35-8:45 - WCOA-AM, Pensacola, FL

Technical and Governmental Briefings

Press Releases/Media Advisories

- Announcement of BP-funded independent research of the impact on marine and shoreline environments

BP.com Website

Social Media

- Ongoing Facebook and Twitter feeds

Other Notable Events

- Secretary Salazar and Secretary Napolitano to lead bipartisan Senate delegation to Louisiana for an inspection of the ongoing response
 - Will meet with federal officials involved in the response, Governor Bobby Jindal, BP representatives and local community and industry leaders
 - Media avail at 11:15amCT
- Marine Board of Investigation, Radisson New Orleans Airport, Kenner, LA - 8am-5pmCT

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TALKING POINTS: May 24th

Current talking points on media issues - verbal use only - not for further distribution

Contents

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3. Other General facts & Figures

CORE MESSAGE: We continue to fight aggressively on three fronts – sub sea, surface and along the shore to defend the shoreline.

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1. Moving/live issues

Riser leak – riser insertion tube tool

This involves inserting a 4" drill pipe with three rubber diaphragms attached into the end of the existing, damaged riser until a watertight closure is achieved. Gas and oil will then flow to the surface drillship assisted by the introduction of nitrogen into the drill pipe. Deployment of the tool began Friday 14th - was taken back to surface to make adjustments. It was back in the water Saturday afternoon. Successfully operated Saturday night, but interrupted when ROV bumped into tool and dislodged.

Flow rate: see daily updates for figures

We are continuing to optimise the flow from damaged riser up to the drillship. This remains a new technology and both its continued operation and its effectiveness in capturing the oil and gas remain uncertain.

Product will be separated on board, gas flared, and oil eventually transferred to other vessel for transportation to one of three different locations on land for treatment.

Riser leak – other options

Containment Dome

The large dome is sitting on the sea bed, about 200 metres away from the leak, while we continue the evaluation and the testing of the hydrates. It has 'not failed yet.'

We knew the hydrates would be a problem, just not this significant. As we continue to find out what may or may not be possible with the large dome, we are deploying the small dome. We felt it was best option and were aware of hydrates and knew it could potentially happen.

Top Hat

This entails lowering a small containment dome over the main leak point. The small "top hat" dome will be connected by drill pipe and riser lines to the Drillship Enterprise on the surface of the sea to collect and treat oil. This has never been done before in 5,000 feet of water.

In the top hat, there will less opportunity for water ingress room for the water than there was in the bigger containment dome, which helps reduce the possibility of hydrate formation, as does the pumping of methanol into the top hat (approved by EPA)

The top hat will be secured in two ways, both by some pipes that will penetrate the sea bed to help secure it as we put it into position and also by the drill pipe and riser to which it will already be attached by the time we move it into position.

The top hat has been transported to site by ROV vessel Poseidon. It arrived there in the early hours of 11 May and is sitting on seabed awaiting deployment over leak site. This option may be deployed should the riser insertion tube tool fail to be successful.

Facts - weighs 3,200lb; 5ft tall; 4ft round. Made of steel (and sweat, according to the Wild Well boys)...

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Hot tap

This is another containment option on the seabed although has received less mention recently. We will tap into riser somewhere out along riser by well head with use to funnel oil and gas. There are currently two possible hot tap options. They form part of the suite of options which have been developed.

BOP options – top kill

Key message – This has never been attempted at these depths. This is very complex – and involves several complex procedures coming together

If asked when it's going happen, the answer is 'next few days.'

- The primary objective of the top kill process is to put heavy kill mud into the well so that it reduces the pressure and then the flow from the well. Once the kill mud is in the well and it's shut down, then we follow up with cement to plug the leak.
- For the top kill procedure we are designing equipment to pump the highest kill rate we can, irrespective of the flow rate of oil from the well, to force a downward flow of mud into the well. This, combined with the heavy drilling fluid is designed to eventually stop the flow. (If pressed – the kill mud (drilling fluid) will be pumped into the choke and kill lines at a rate of up to 40 barrels per minute).
- Detailed description of the procedure: We have the Q4000 vessel at the surface which has a crane for lifting heavy equipment and is a central part of the surface equipment for this procedure.
- We also have a number of other vessels: the HOS Centerline, with Halliburton pumping equipment; the HOS Strongline; and the BJ Services Blue Dolphin and Halliburton Stim Star IV pumping boats.
- A total of 50,000 barrels of mud will be on location to kill the well – far more than necessary, but we want to be prepared for anything. Pumping capacity on location is more than 30,000 hydraulic horsepower.
- The mud will be pumped down the 6-5/8 inch drill pipe (pipe is connected to the Q4000), then through 3-inch hoses, which go through the manifold on the seafloor. Then the mud moves through another set of 3-inch hoses attached to the Deepwater Horizon BOP choke and kill lines.
- With the manifold, we can also pump the 'junk shot' if necessary to stop too much of the kill mud going out through the top of the BOP rather than going down into the well to stop the flow. By switching valves in the subsea manifold, we can inject the 'bridging material' (the junk), which will prevent such losses and enable the top kill to continue.
- We've been testing the junk shot on-shore, looking at different configurations of what might restrict the flow out of the Deepwater Horizon riser and what types of materials would help shut it off. Materials in a junk shot can include well-known items such as pieces of tires, golf balls, and pieces of rope.
- Most of the equipment is on site and preparations continue for this operation. We expect to start pumping early next week.

How long will the top kill process take? This is a complicated procedure which has never been performed at 5,000 ft and involves several complex procedures coming together. As a result we cannot put a definite timescale on it.

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Other BOP options

Junk shot, another BOP or a valve on top of the existing BOP.

General comments around containment options

All these efforts are being carried out in conjunction with governmental authorities and other industry experts.

Multiple options have always been progressed. We are doing things never been done before and trying to do things never done at this depth before. We are running multiple options in parallel and learning all the time.

We are designing every option to be successful, but we are planning for them to fail. Real time learning is going on. You can have lots of options in place but hard to determine effectiveness until presented with a situation. We're doing it for real for first time. Learning will have profound implications for industry. It's a global industry effort in Houston.

We have assembled small army from government, all oil companies, numerous people from technical ops, BP, etc. We are approaching it in a multi-faceted manner. We must continue to manage expectations of each option and understand that priorities will continue to change.

Webcam feed of the riser flow

A live webcam of the riser flow can be viewed at www.bp.com.

BP has been providing a live feed to government entities over the last two weeks – including the US Department of the Interior, US Coast Guard, Minerals Management Service (MMS) through the Unified Area Command center in Louisiana – as well as to BP and industry scientists and engineers involved in the effort to stop the spill.

Measuring the flow rate

BP has, and will continue, to support the government's work to determine the rate of flow from the well. Since the Deepwater Horizon accident, the flow rate estimate has been established by the Unified Command. Throughout the process, BP has made it a priority to quickly and consistently provide the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Coast Guard with requested information for the joint command structure to make as accurate an assessment as possible of the rate of flow.

The rate of flow from the riser is determined in a number of ways and by a number of variables. For instance, while the original riser was 19.5 inches in diameter prior to the Deepwater Horizon accident, damage sustained during the accident distorted the diameter at the end of the pipe by about 30 per cent. In addition, a drill pipe currently trapped inside the riser has reduced the flow area by an additional 10 per cent. Thus, some third party estimates of flow, which assume a 19.5 inch diameter, are inaccurate. As well, there is natural gas in the riser. Data on the hydrocarbons recovered to date suggests that the proportion of gas in the plume exiting the riser is, on average, approximately 50 percent.

Flow Rate Technical Team

To provide further specificity on the flow rate, the US government has created a Flow Rate Technical Team (FRTT) to develop a more precise estimate. The FRTT includes the US Coast Guard, NOAA, MMS, Department of Energy (DOE) and the US Geological Survey.

To support this, BP is in the process of providing FRTT with all requested information, including diagrams and schematics showing release points, amounts of oil and gas currently being collected on the Discoverer

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Enterprise, and subsea video of the oil release point.

Relief wells

Work on the first relief well, which began on May 2, continues. The DDII drilling rig began drilling the second relief well on May 16. This is insurance for the first relief well. Each of these wells is estimated to take some three months to complete from the commencement of drilling.

Surface Spill Response and Containment

Work continues to collect and disperse oil that has reached the surface of the sea. Over 1,100 vessels are involved in the response effort, including skimmers, tugs, barges and recovery vessels.

Intensive operations to skim oil from the surface of the water have now recovered, in total, some 243,000 barrels (10.2 million gallons) of oily liquid. The total length of boom deployed as part of efforts to prevent oil reaching the coast is now nearly 2.5 million feet, including over 730,000 feet of sorbent boom.

In total, over 22,000 personnel from BP, other companies and government agencies are currently involved in the response to this incident. So far 23,000 claims have been filed and 9,000 have already been paid.

Response to EPH/DHS letter

The following press release was issued May 21:

BP today reiterated its pledge to be open and transparent in its response to the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

BP confirmed its continuing commitment to co-operate with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in facilitating access by the US Government and the public to sampling/monitoring data on the Deepwater Horizon spill response. The commitment was made in a letter sent to Janet Napolitano, Secretary of Homeland Security and Lisa Jackson, administrator of the EPA.

"We are committed to providing the American people with the information they need to understand the environmental impact from the spill and the response steps that have been taken," said BP's chief executive Tony Hayward.

"We share with you a strong commitment to transparency. BP is working hand-in-hand with federal, state and local governments to gather data on the seabed and in the water, and to incorporate those lessons so that we can continually improve the effectiveness of our response efforts," Hayward added.

BP has begun the process of collecting and uploading relevant data to its own website www.BP.com and has committed to work with the US Coast Guard and the EPA with respect to uploading of materials on a rolling basis onto this website.

BP's commitment was confirmed in response to a letter, dated 20 May, from the EPA and the DHS.

Response to setting up the Bipartisan National Commission

Tony Hayward response: "I welcome the news that President Obama has established the Commission and pledge BP's co-operation to Co-Chairmen Graham and Reilly. We share the goal of the President and the public to know what happened to cause this accident and what regulatory and industry changes are needed to help prevent something like this from happening again."

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Total spent

The cost of the response to date amounts to about \$760 million, including the cost of the spill response, containment, relief well drilling, grants to the Gulf states, claims paid and federal costs. It is too early to quantify other potential costs and liabilities associated with the incident.

Dispersants

Update May 23rd: The dispersants EPA considered "less toxic" were reviewed and contain a detergent that may degrade into an endocrine disruptor (nonylphenol or NP), which cannot be injected directly into deep water near the well head, without violating EPA's water quality standards.

Corexit does not contain the same chemicals. Under the directives issued by EPA and the Coast Guard, we (BP) will continue to use Corexit while we work with the agencies to evaluate other dispersants.

May 19th: We sent a letter to EPA, responding to the May 19 directive on dispersants.

The letter outlines our findings that none of the alternative products on the EPA's National Contingency Plan Product Schedule list meets all three criteria specified in yesterday's directive for availability, toxicity and effectiveness.

We do have a pre-approved, effective, low-toxicity dispersant product on hand, and we continue to use it: Corexit.

Subsea dispersant application continues at the leak site. This has significantly reduced the amount of oil reaching the sea surface

Note: We are not required to make any immediate change. The directive said we should identify within 24 hours which products from the schedule meet the specified criteria. If none do so, we were directed to explain why. We have done so. We are not releasing the letter.

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2. Other issues

BP Helpline

As at 9am on May 20th, BP had received around 72,000 calls (correction by helpline office) into its help lines, which are manned by 80 operators. We have also received 20,000 emails. More staff are being drafted into assist.

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16,500 of the calls were associated with ideas for help.

People with ideas are asked to complete a submission, with some of them suggestions then going forward to be reviewed by experts. Around half of these suggestions were already being implemented. No submissions have yet made it beyond the first stage – in some ways unsurprising, given that as Secretary Chu remarked, "Putting our best scientific minds together with BP's deepwater drilling engineers will enable these dedicated professionals to examine every feasible means and practical solution to this environmental crisis in the Gulf of Mexico"

Additional detail on the process: Suggestions may be submitted by telephone or email. Proposals are reviewed for technical feasibility and application. Feasible solutions are forwarded for additional consideration. A reply is sent via email or fax to each caller informing them of the outcome of the technical review. Callers whose ideas are considered feasible are advised by email that BP will contact them if and when their support is needed. All submitters are advised that their solution may have already been proposed by another party or attempted. Given this quantity of technical proposals suggested by industry professionals and the public, it is taking some time to technically review each one.

Ad campaign to support Gulf states tourism

Total of \$70m grant made to 4 states 17 May - \$25m Florida (to recognize the greater tourism industry), \$15m remaining three.

Atlantis query

Response to questions around allegations of former employee Kenneth Abbott regarding incomplete engineering record keeping on Atlantis platform.

See attached press release issued 17 May

BOP Operation

There have been reports in the media focusing on a paper, (co-authored by a BP employee) which that blind shear rams might not cut high-test drill pipe, as well as additional studies appearing to suggest that shear rams only work in certain circumstances and are not an all-conditions failsafe. Approved message as follows:

BOPs are the safety-critical devices that are designed to secure the well in the event of flow. They have multiple levels of redundancy which has given the industry confidence in their operations for decades. It is well known in the industry that stronger drill pipe is more difficult to shear. However, that is taken into account in manufacturers' specifications.

Claims

BP takes full responsibility for responding to the spill and will pay appropriate compensation. Specifically, BP will pay all necessary clean up costs and is committed to paying legitimate claims for other loss and damage caused by the spill.

It is too early to quantify the level of fines or penalties that may be incurred in relation to this incident. In response to the questions about the \$75 million cap on liabilities we are saying: We believe it is inevitable we will spend more than the OPA suggests settling claims and are willing to do that. As at 19 May, almost 23,000 claims have been filed, of which about 9,000 have already been paid. (Remainder are awaiting data from claimants).

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Claims will feature in the Congressional hearings next week. Press Office working with legal to provide talking points etc for early next week.

The claims process

All claimants will be directed to a hotline (1-800-440-0858) to be manned by the catastrophic loss division of ESIS, a national loss adjusting company with deep expertise in adjusting oil spill claims that processes initial claims.

As an alternative, claimants can visit one of BP's Community Outreach Centres. Beginning on Monday, May 3, ESIS will staff those centres with adjusters.

Congressional hearings – post hearing comments

Lamar's testimony speaks for itself.

Lamar McKay's testimony to congress is a matter of public record; we do not have any comment to add to the evidence he gave.

This has been a tragedy for the families and the industry as a whole. We're not going to rest until the causes of this tragedy are known and changes are made to see that it never happens again."

In the meantime, we intend to fight this spill on the seabed, on the surface and onshore. We're not going to stop until the well is closed and the spill is cleaned-up.

From the start we've had three priorities, to close the well, minimize the impact of the spill and keep the public informed. These hearings are an important part of keeping the public informed.

General accident implications

The investigation of this whole industry will undoubtedly bring up things we should be looking at.

The incident will allow us to focus on other thoughts - on BOP and the subsea level and the adequacy of the spill response. Once the various things get an assessment we'll be in a better position.

The industry has globally drilled over 5,000 wells in greater than 1,000 feet of water and never had an issue like this to contend with.

This is a clearly serious situation - which is why we are so focused on it, no matter how long it takes.

Implications will only come clear when investigation are complete. Let's await the results of the investigation.

Giant Oil Plumes

Reports in NYT 16 May of 'giant oil plumes'. Statement 17 May from NOAA Administrator Jane Lubchenko starts: 'Media reports related to the research work conducted aboard the R/V Pelican included information that was misleading, premature and, in some cases, inaccurate.'

Refer queries to NOAA and the JIC website

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where the 'Statement from NOAA Administrator Jane Lubchenco on Ongoing Efforts to Monitor Subsea Impacts of the BP Oil Spill' gives more detail.

GoM exploration queries

Queries as to the potential impact on exploration programme as a result of incident – message approved by Kent Wells:

We don't know... too early to tell... rig schedule in flux, but obviously with 3 rigs working at MC 252, our drill program will be affected)).

Guardian "Drop in Ocean" headline

Tony Hayward was quoted by the Guardian:

Hayward insisted that the leaked oil and the estimated 400,000 gallons of dispersant that BP has pumped into the sea to try to tackle the slick should be put in context. "The Gulf of Mexico is a very big ocean. The amount of volume of oil and dispersant we are putting into it is tiny in relation to the total water volume," he said.

Approved message:

- Tony Hayward was in no way minimising the scale or size of the incident - this is a major incident, and this is the largest response ever mobilised.
- He was simply putting into context the relative volumes of oil and dispersants involved in this spill in the deepwater, far offshore. This is enabling us to have a large degree of success in our strategy of containing and attacking the spilled oil offshore and minimising impact on the shoreline
- This is a serious spill and we are tackling it with the utmost seriousness and urgency.

Hair boom

Hair boom, while absorbent, has had some difficulties in its use and disposal as well as undetermined environmental effects.

The absorbent boom currently being used is the best product based on its unique characteristics and properties.

There is currently no shortage of absorbent boom in Louisiana and thus no need to consider the use of alternative products.

Houston crisis centre

Almost 90 different organizations represented at the Houston crisis center – including, for example companies such as Exxon, Shell, Chevron, Conoco-Phillips, Transocean, Cameron, Halliburton, Wild Well Control.

Agencies such as the US Coastguard, US navy, Department for Homeland Security and the Department of the Interior are also present. Total number of people in the centre is over 500 on a daily basis.

HR/ Waivers

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There were 7 BP employees on the rig.

Media response on waiver question: "BP staff on the rig were not asked to sign any waiver form pertaining to injuries or other matters associated with the rig incident."

If pressed: "BP staff and others on the rig were subject to mandatory drug testing by urine sample. This is standard practice in this situation. We are not aware of any documentation in that situation that would amount to a waiver for damages or injuries."

"We would not comment on what happened to staff from any of the other companies on the rig."

We did not have any lawyers on the vessels. None of our staff were asked to sign waivers.

FYI - staff from the rig then went to meet people from their own companies. BP staff have been interviewed about what happened etc. but none were asked to sign any waivers or similar forms.

Questions regarding actions/activities leading to blow-out and explosion

Approved message

We are not going to comment on that sort of detail or speculation about causes. Multiple investigations into the background, circumstances and causes of the tragedy that engulfed the Deepwater Horizon are already underway and will examine all of these aspects in great detail. We will participate fully in them. But to speculate now on the exact detail and the cause of the explosion is premature. This will come out in the investigations.

Safety

Many questions are bound to be asked after an accident as serious and unprecedented as this, including about industry preparedness. We will be co-operating fully with all official investigations and with the Congressional enquiries.

We are determined to get to the bottom of what happened and to learn the lessons so it never happens again.

Transocean's Deepwater Horizon had an unblemished safety record since 2004, according to Mineral Management Service (MMS) Incident of Non-Compliance (INC) data. This rig was just 1 day short of seven years without a DAFWC injury case. One year without a recordable injury.

Drilling rigs working for BP in the Gulf of Mexico outperformed the industry average on safety for six years running, according to the MMS's drilling rig INC to Inspection Ratio.

BP has been a finalist for the MMS National SAFE (Safety Award for Excellence) Award for the past two years.

Salazar/Napolitano letter to ABH

A letter requesting public declaration of BP willingness to go beyond \$75m cap. Tony Hayward has responded to the letter. We are not releasing copy. Approved message:

- On the record - what Secretaries Salazar and Napolitano are requesting is consistent with all our public statements on the matter.
- As background - the \$75m cap is irrelevant as we have already exceeded that number

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Staff celebration / BP staff on rig story

First it is important to stress that all safety and operational matters on a rig are the responsibility of the rig owner and operator and are carried out by the offshore installation manager, an employee of the rig owner.

Two BP managers (not 4 or 7 as has been reported) joined two T/O managers on a routine visit to the rig. These rig visits are typically quarterly events. On this occasion the managers were planning to mark two safety milestones during their visit: 7 years without a day away from work injury case and one year without a recordable injury.

This would have been done by talking to staff and touring the rig. The other five staff were carrying out typical functions on a rig, ie acting as a representative liaison between the leaseholder and the rig owner and operator. Three BP trainees were onsite at the time for observation of certain rig operations.

BP's gulf operations

In 2009 we produced on average 387,000 barrels of oil a day and 303million cubic feet of gas a day from the Gulf of Mexico Deepwater - together making 440,000 barrels of oil equivalent today.

We are the largest operator in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico (note - not the shallow waters), operating the fields Atlantis, Thunder Horse, Mad Dog, Pompano, Marlin, Horn Mountain and Na Kika.

We also have non-operating interests in fields such as Mars, Ursa, Diana, Hoover and Ram Powell.

GoM deepwater is one of a number of areas around the world where we have focussed our upstream business: these also include the Caspian Sea in Azerbaijan, offshore Angola, onshore US gas, Trinidad Gas, Egypt, and Russia.

Our net production from Russia is much larger than GoM - on average some 943,000 barrels of oil equivalent a day (boed) in 2009.

Production from Trinidad and Tobago was some 456,000 boed in 2009, from onshore lower 48 US around 440,000boed.

Our total oil and gas production worldwide averaged 3.998 million boed in 2009.

3. Other general facts and figures

Number of BP people working in the US alone on this incident: more than 1,300 since the start of the incident. At least 200 more in the UK

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400-500 people in Houston centre alone 60% BP employees – many engineers and technical people working on solutions.

Approximately 10,000 people, including BP staff are currently responding to protect the shoreline and wildlife in total from all agencies.

BP people based at one crisis center in Houston and three command posts: the Area Command is in Robert, Louisiana; one incident command post is in Houma, Louisiana and the other is in Mobile, Alabama.

About 50 people (employees and consultants) are working government, public and community affairs and media.

14 staging areas have been set up to protect vital shoreline in all potentially affected Gulf Coast states (Biloxi, Miss., Pascagoula, Miss., Pensacola, Fla., Panama City, Fla., Dauphin Island, Ala., Grand Isle, La., Shell Beach, La., Slidell, La., Venice, La., Orange Beach, Al., Theodore, Al., Pass Christian, Ms., Amelia, La., and Cocodrie, La.).

Volunteers 11,000 inquiries and 4,000 volunteers have been trained so far to assist with clean up operation.

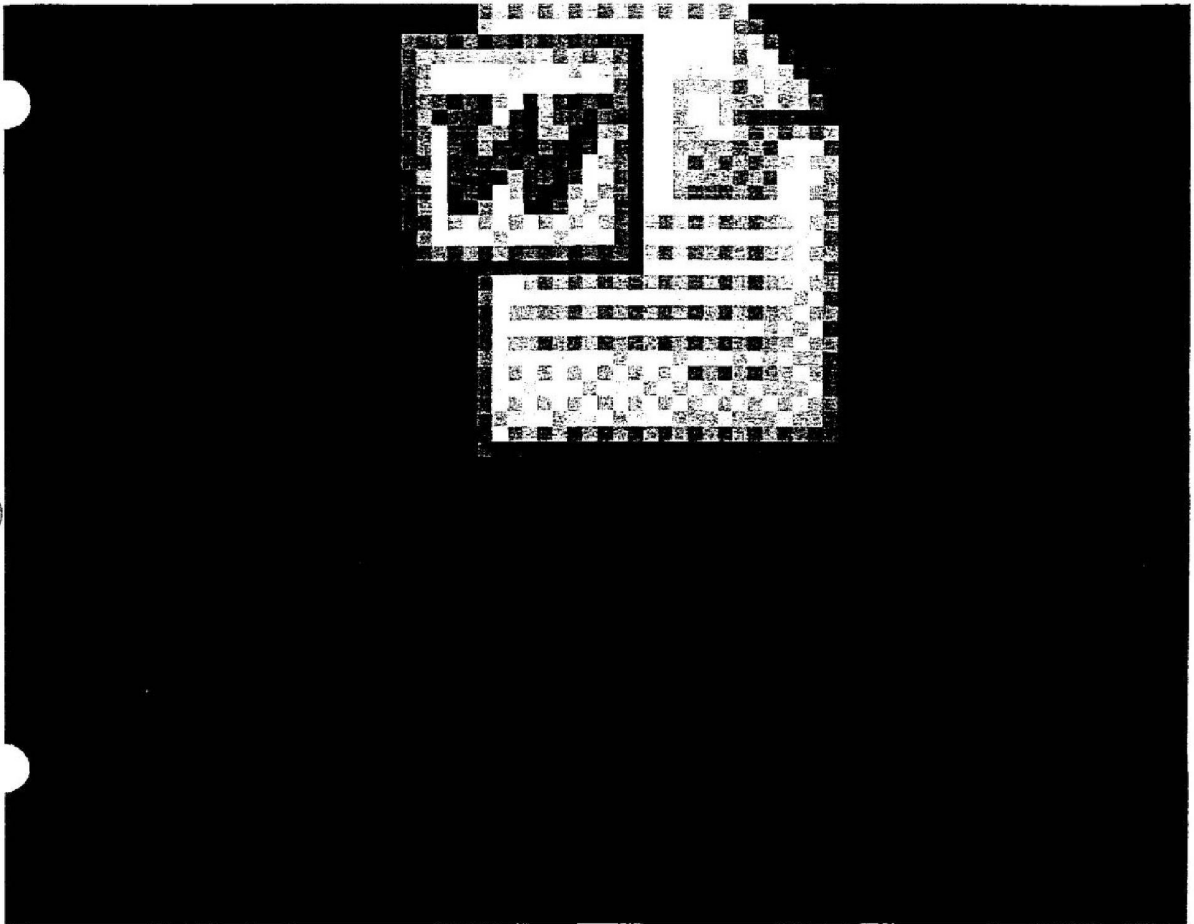
1,100 vessels of opportunity have been signed.

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May 24, 2010 Media/Communications Plan

Updated as of 11 PM CT on May 23, 2010. Note: Events and interviews need to be confirmed again on May 24th 8 am CT conference call.

External Communications Activities for May 24th**Press Conferences and Briefings**

- TENTATIVE: Tony Hayward visit to impacted beach location with ABC News; followed by a brief comment/Q&A session with media

Interviews

- Doug Suttles broadcast television interviews:
 - 5:28-5:33 - GMA Pre-tape
 - 5:35-5:38 - Today Show Pre-tape
 - 5:40-5:47 - CNN Live
 - 5:50-6:00 - Fox and Friends Live
 - 6:05-6:15 - CBS Morning Live
- Bob Fryar regional radio interviews:
 - 7:35-7:45 – WWL-AM, New Orleans, LA
 - 7:48-7:58 – WRNO-FM, New Orleans, LA
 - 8:20-8:30 – WBUV-FM, Biloxi, MS
 - 8:35-8:45 – WCOA-AM, Pensacola, FL

Technical and Governmental Briefings**Press Releases/Media Advisories**

- Announcement of BP-funded independent research of the impact on marine and shoreline environments

BP.com Website**Social Media**

- Ongoing Facebook and Twitter feeds

Other Notable Events

- Secretary Salazar and Secretary Napolitano to lead bipartisan Senate delegation to Louisiana for an inspection of the ongoing response
 - Will meet with federal officials involved in the response, Governor Bobby Jindal, BP representatives and local community and industry leaders
 - Media avail at 11:15amCT
- Marine Board of Investigation, Radisson New Orleans Airport, Kenner, LA - 8am-5pmCT

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TALKING POINTS: May 24th**Current talking points on media issues - verbal use only - not for further distribution****Contents****1. Moving/live issues**

- Riser leak – Riser insertion tube tool
- Riser leak – other options
 - Containment Dome
 - Top Hat
 - Hot Tap
- BOP Options
 - Top Kill
 - Other BOP Options
- General comments – containment
- Live feed of the riser flow
- Measuring the flow rate
- Flow Rate Technical Team
- Relief Wells
- Surface Spill response & Containment
- EPA/DHS letter
- Response to setting up commission
- Total Spent
- Dispersants

2. Other Issues

- BP Helpline
- Ad Campaign to Support Gulf Tourism
- Atlantis Query
- BOP Operation Queries
- Claims
 - Claims Process
- General Accident Implications
- Giant Oil Plumes
- Gulf of Mexico Exploration Queries
- Guardian 'Drop in the Ocean' Headline
- Hair Boom
- Houston Crisis Centre
- HR/Waivers
- Independent Plume Measurement
- Oil Flow Rates
- Questions regarding actions/activities leading to blow-out
- Safety
- Salazar/Napolitano Letter to ABH
- Staff celebration/BP Staff on Rig
- BP's Gulf Operations

3. Other General facts & Figures**CORE MESSAGE: We continue to fight aggressively on three fronts – sub sea, surface and along the shore to defend the shoreline.****1. Moving/live issues****Riser leak – riser insertion tube tool**

This involves inserting a 4" drill pipe with three rubber diaphragms attached into the end of the existing, damaged riser until a watertight closure is achieved.

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Gas and oil will then flow to the surface drillship assisted by the introduction of nitrogen into the drill pipe.

Deployment of the tool began Friday 14th - was taken back to surface to make adjustments. It was back in the water Saturday afternoon. Successfully operated Saturday night, but interrupted when ROV bumped into tool and dislodged.

Flow rate: see daily updates for figures

We are continuing to optimise the flow from damaged riser up to the drillship. This remains a new technology and both its continued operation and its effectiveness in capturing the oil and gas remain uncertain.

Product will be separated on board, gas flared, and oil eventually transferred to other vessel for transportation to one of three different locations on land for treatment.

Riser leak – other options

Containment Dome

The large dome is sitting on the sea bed, about 200 metres away from the leak, while we continue the evaluation and the testing of the hydrates. It has 'not failed yet.'

We knew the hydrates would be a problem, just not this significant. As we continue to find out what may or may not be possible with the large dome, we are deploying the small dome. We felt it was best option and were aware of hydrates and knew it could potentially happen.

Top Hat

This entails lowering a small containment dome over the main leak point. The small "top hat" dome will be connected by drill pipe and riser lines to the Drillship Enterprise on the surface of the sea to collect and treat oil. This has never been done before in 5,000 feet of water.

In the top hat, there will less opportunity for water ingress room for the water than there was in the bigger containment dome, which helps reduce the possibility of hydrate formation, as does the pumping of methanol into the top hat (approved by EPA)

The top hat will be secured in two ways, both by some pipes that will penetrate the sea bed to help secure it as we put it into position and also by the drill pipe and riser to which it will already be attached by the time we move it into position.

The top hat has been transported to site by ROV vessel Poseidon. It arrived there in the early hours of 11 May and is sitting on seabed awaiting deployment over leak site. This option may be deployed should the riser insertion tube tool fail to be successful.

Facts - weighs 3,200lb; 5ft tall; 4ft round. Made of steel (and sweat, according to the Wild Well boys)...

Hot tap

This is another containment option on the seabed although has received less mention recently. We will tap into riser somewhere out along riser by well head with use to funnel oil and gas. There are currently two possible hot tap options. They form part of the suite of options which have been developed.

BOP options – top kill

Key message - This has never been attempted at these depths. This is very complex – and involves several complex procedures coming together
If asked when it's going happen, the answer is 'next few days.'

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- The primary objective of the top kill process is to put heavy kill mud into the well so that it reduces the pressure and then the flow from the well. Once the kill mud is in the well and it's shut down, then we follow up with cement to plug the leak.
- For the top kill procedure we are designing equipment to pump the highest kill rate we can, irrespective of the flow rate of oil from the well, to force a downward flow of mud into the well. This, combined with the heavy drilling fluid is designed to eventually stop the flow. (If pressed -- the kill mud (drilling fluid) will be pumped into the choke and kill lines at a rate of up to 40 barrels per minute).
- Detailed description of the procedure: We have the Q4000 vessel at the surface which has a crane for lifting heavy equipment and is a central part of the surface equipment for this procedure.
- We also have a number of other vessels: the HOS Centerline, with Halliburton pumping equipment; the HOS Strongline; and the BJ Services Blue Dolphin and Halliburton Stim Star IV pumping boats.
- A total of 50,000 barrels of mud will be on location to kill the well -- far more than necessary, but we want to be prepared for anything. Pumping capacity on location is more than 30,000 hydraulic horsepower.
- The mud will be pumped down the 6-5/8 inch drill pipe (pipe is connected to the Q4000), then through 3-inch hoses, which go through the manifold on the seafloor. Then the mud moves through another set of 3-inch hoses attached to the Deepwater Horizon BOP choke and kill lines.
- With the manifold, we can also pump the 'junk shot' if necessary to stop too much of the kill mud going out through the top of the BOP rather than going down into the well to stop the flow. By switching valves in the subsea manifold, we can inject the 'bridging material' (the junk), which will prevent such losses and enable the top kill to continue.
- We've been testing the junk shot on-shore, looking at different configurations of what might restrict the flow out of the Deepwater Horizon riser and what types of materials would help shut it off. Materials in a junk shot can include well-known items such as pieces of tires, golf balls, and pieces of rope.
- Most of the equipment is on site and preparations continue for this operation. We expect to start pumping early next week.

How long will the top kill process take? This is a complicated procedure which has never been performed at 5,000 ft and involves several complex procedures coming together. As a result we cannot put a definite timescale on it.

Other BOP options

Junk shot, another BOP or a valve on top of the existing BOP.

General comments around containment options

All these efforts are being carried out in conjunction with governmental authorities and other industry experts.

Multiple options have always been progressed. We are doing things never been done before and trying to do things never done at this depth before. We are running multiple options in parallel and learning all the time.

We are designing every option to be successful, but we are planning for them to fail. Real time learning is going on. You can have lots of options in place but hard to determine effectiveness

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until presented with a situation. We're doing it for real for first time. Learning will have profound implications for industry. It's a global industry effort in Houston.

We have assembled small army from government, all oil companies, numerous people from technical ops, BP, etc. We are approaching it in a multi-faceted manner. We must continue to manage expectations of each option and understand that priorities will continue to change.

Webcam feed of the riser flow

A live webcam of the riser flow can be viewed at www.bp.com.

BP has been providing a live feed to government entities over the last two weeks – including the US Department of the Interior, US Coast Guard, Minerals Management Service (MMS) through the Unified Area Command center in Louisiana – as well as to BP and industry scientists and engineers involved in the effort to stop the spill.

Measuring the flow rate

BP has, and will continue, to support the government's work to determine the rate of flow from the well. Since the Deepwater Horizon accident, the flow rate estimate has been established by the Unified Command. Throughout the process, BP has made it a priority to quickly and consistently provide the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Coast Guard with requested information for the joint command structure to make as accurate an assessment as possible of the rate of flow.

The rate of flow from the riser is determined in a number of ways and by a number of variables. For instance, while the original riser was 19.5 inches in diameter prior to the Deepwater Horizon accident, damage sustained during the accident distorted the diameter at the end of the pipe by about 30 per cent. In addition, a drill pipe currently trapped inside the riser has reduced the flow area by an additional 10 per cent. Thus, some third party estimates of flow, which assume a 19.5 inch diameter, are inaccurate. As well, there is natural gas in the riser. Data on the hydrocarbons recovered to date suggests that the proportion of gas in the plume exiting the riser is, on average, approximately 50 percent.

Flow Rate Technical Team

To provide further specificity on the flow rate, the US government has created a Flow Rate Technical Team (FRTT) to develop a more precise estimate. The FRTT includes the US Coast Guard, NOAA, MMS, Department of Energy (DOE) and the US Geological Survey.

To support this, BP is in the process of providing FRTT with all requested information, including diagrams and schematics showing release points, amounts of oil and gas currently being collected on the Discoverer Enterprise, and subsea video of the oil release point.

Relief wells

Work on the first relief well, which began on May 2, continues. The DDI drilling rig began drilling the second relief well on May 16. This is insurance for the first relief well. Each of these wells is estimated to take some three months to complete from the commencement of drilling.

Surface Spill Response and Containment

Work continues to collect and disperse oil that has reached the surface of the sea. Over 1,100 vessels are involved in the response effort, including skimmers, tugs, barges and recovery vessels.

Intensive operations to skim oil from the surface of the water have now recovered, in total, some 243,000 barrels (10.2 million gallons) of oily liquid. The total length of boom deployed as part of efforts to prevent oil reaching the coast is now nearly 2.5 million feet, including over 730,000 feet of sorbent boom.

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In total, over 22,000 personnel from BP, other companies and government agencies are currently involved in the response to this incident. So far 23,000 claims have been filed and 9,000 have already been paid.

Response to EPH/DHS letter

The following press release was issued May 21:

BP today reiterated its pledge to be open and transparent in its response to the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

BP confirmed its continuing commitment to co-operate with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in facilitating access by the US Government and the public to sampling/monitoring data on the Deepwater Horizon spill response. The commitment was made in a letter sent to Janet Napolitano, Secretary of Homeland Security and Lisa Jackson, administrator of the EPA.

"We are committed to providing the American people with the information they need to understand the environmental impact from the spill and the response steps that have been taken," said BP's chief executive Tony Hayward.

"We share with you a strong commitment to transparency. BP is working hand-in-hand with federal, state and local governments to gather data on the seabed and in the water, and to incorporate those lessons so that we can continually improve the effectiveness of our response efforts," Hayward added.

BP has begun the process of collecting and uploading relevant data to its own website www.BP.com and has committed to work with the US Coast Guard and the EPA with respect to uploading of materials on a rolling basis onto this website.

BP's commitment was confirmed in response to a letter, dated 20 May, from the EPA and the DHS.

Response to setting up the Bipartisan National Commission

Tony Hayward response: "I welcome the news that President Obama has established the Commission and pledge BP's co-operation to Co-Chairmen Graham and Reilly. We share the goal of the President and the public to know what happened to cause this accident and what regulatory and industry changes are needed to help prevent something like this from happening again."

Total spent

The cost of the response to date amounts to about \$760 million, including the cost of the spill response, containment, relief well drilling, grants to the Gulf states, claims paid and federal costs. It is too early to quantify other potential costs and liabilities associated with the incident.

Dispersants

Update May 23rd: The dispersants EPA considered "less toxic" were reviewed and contain a detergent that may degrade into an endocrine disruptor (nonylphenol or NP), which cannot be injected directly into deep water near the well head, without violating EPA's water quality standards.

Corexit does not contain the same chemicals. Under the directives issued by EPA and the Coast Guard, we (BP) will continue to use Corexit while we work with the agencies to evaluate other dispersants.

May 19th: We sent a letter to EPA, responding to the May 19 directive on dispersants.

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The letter outlines our findings that none of the alternative products on the EPA's National Contingency Plan Product Schedule list meets all three criteria specified in yesterday's directive for availability, toxicity and effectiveness.

We do have a pre-approved, effective, low-toxicity dispersant product on hand, and we continue to use it: Corexit.

Subsea dispersant application continues at the leak site. This has significantly reduced the amount of oil reaching the sea surface

Note: We are not required to make any immediate change. The directive said we should identify within 24 hours which products from the schedule meet the specified criteria. If none do so, we were directed to explain why. We have done so. We are not releasing the letter.

2. Other issues

BP Helpline

As at 9am on May 20th, BP had received around 72,000 calls (correction by helpline office) into its help lines, which are manned by 80 operators. We have also received 20,000 emails. More staff are being drafted into assist.

16,500 of the calls were associated with ideas for help.

People with ideas are asked to complete a submission, with some of them suggestions then going forward to be reviewed by experts. Around half of these suggestions were already being implemented. No submissions have yet made it beyond the first stage – in some ways unsurprising, given that as Secretary Chu remarked, "Putting our best scientific minds together with BP's deepwater drilling engineers will enable these dedicated professionals to examine every feasible means and practical solution to this environmental crisis in the Gulf of Mexico"

Additional detail on the process: Suggestions may be submitted by telephone or email. Proposals are reviewed for technical feasibility and application. Feasible solutions are forwarded for additional consideration. A reply is sent via email or fax to each caller informing them of the outcome of the technical review. Callers whose ideas are considered feasible are advised by email that BP will contact them if and when their support is needed. All submitters are advised that their solution may have already been proposed by another party or attempted. Given this quantity of technical proposals suggested by industry professionals and the public, it is taking some time to technically review each one.

Ad campaign to support Gulf states tourism

Total of \$70m grant made to 4 states 17 May - \$25m Florida (to recognize the greater tourism industry), \$15m remaining three.

Atlantis query

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Response to questions around allegations of former employee Kenneth Abbott regarding incomplete engineering record keeping on Atlantis platform.
See attached press release issued 17 May



BP Press release
atlantis 05.1...

BOP Operation

There have been reports in the media focusing on a paper, (co-authored by a BP employee) which that blind shear rams might not cut high-test drill pipe, as well as additional studies appearing to suggest that shear rams only work in certain circumstances and are not an all-conditions failsafe. Approved message as follows:

BOPs are the safety-critical devices that are designed to secure the well in the event of flow. They have multiple levels of redundancy which has given the industry confidence in their operations for decades. It is well known in the industry that stronger drill pipe is more difficult to shear. However, that is taken into account in manufacturers' specifications.

Claims

BP takes full responsibility for responding to the spill and will pay appropriate compensation. Specifically, BP will pay all necessary clean up costs and is committed to paying legitimate claims for other loss and damage caused by the spill.

It is too early to quantify the level of fines or penalties that may be incurred in relation to this incident.

In response to the questions about the \$75 million cap on liabilities we are saying: We believe it is inevitable we will spend more than the OPA suggests settling claims and are willing to do that.

As at 19 May, almost 23,000 claims have been filed, of which about 9,000 have already been paid. (Remainder are awaiting data from claimants).

Claims will feature in the Congressional hearings next week. Press Office working with legal to provide talking points etc for early next week.

The claims process

All claimants will be directed to a hotline (1-800-440-0856) to be manned by the catastrophic loss division of ESIS, a national loss adjusting company with deep expertise in adjusting oil spill claims that processes initial claims.

As an alternative, claimants can visit one of BP's Community Outreach Centres. Beginning on Monday, May 3, ESIS will staff those centres with adjusters.

Congressional hearings – post hearing comments

Lamar's testimony speaks for itself.

Lamar McKay's testimony to congress is a matter of public record; we do not have any comment to add to the evidence he gave.

This has been a tragedy for the families and the industry as a whole. We're not going to rest until the causes of this tragedy are known and changes are made to see that it never happens again."

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In the meantime, we intend to fight this spill on the seabed, on the surface and onshore. We're not going to stop until the well is closed and the spill is cleaned-up.

From the start we've had three priorities, to close the well, minimize the impact of the spill and keep the public informed. These hearings are an important part of keeping the public informed.

General accident implications

The investigation of this whole industry will undoubtedly bring up things we should be looking at.

The incident will allow us to focus on other thoughts - on BOP and the subsea level and the adequacy of the spill response. Once the various things get an assessment we'll be in a better position.

The industry has globally drilled over 5,000 wells in greater than 1,000 feet of water and never had an issue like this to contend with.

This is a clearly serious situation - which is why we are so focused on it, no matter how long it takes.

Implications will only come clear when investigation are complete. Let's await the results of the investigation.

Giant Oil Plumes

Reports in NYT 16 May of 'giant oil plumes'. Statement 17 May from NOAA Administrator Jane Lubchenko starts: '*Media reports related to the research work conducted aboard the R/V Pelican included information that was misleading, premature and, in some cases, inaccurate.*'

Refer queries to NOAA and the JIC website where the 'Statement from NOAA Administrator Jane Lubchenko on Ongoing Efforts to Monitor Subsea Impacts of the BP Oil Spill' gives more detail.

GoM exploration queries

Queries as to the potential impact on exploration programme as a result of incident - message approved by Kent Wells:

We don't know... too early to tell... rig schedule in flux, but obviously with 3 rigs working at MC 252, our drill program will be affected)).

Guardian "Drop in Ocean" headline

Tony Hayward was quoted by the Guardian:

Hayward insisted that the leaked oil and the estimated 400,000 gallons of dispersant that BP has pumped into the sea to try to tackle the slick should be put in context. "The Gulf of Mexico is a very big ocean. The amount of volume of oil and dispersant we are putting into it is tiny in relation to the total water volume," he said.

Approved message:

- *Tony Hayward was in no way minimising the scale or size of the incident - this is a major incident, and this is the largest response ever mobilised.*
- *He was simply putting into context the relative volumes of oil and dispersants involved in this spill in the deepwater, far offshore. This is enabling us to have a large degree of success in our strategy of containing and attacking the spilled oil offshore and minimising impact on the shoreline*
- *This is a serious spill and we are tackling it with the utmost seriousness and urgency.*

Hair boom

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Hair boom, while absorbent, has had some difficulties in its use and disposal as well as undetermined environmental effects.

The absorbent boom currently being used is the best product based on its unique characteristics and properties.

There is currently no shortage of absorbent boom in Louisiana and thus no need to consider the use of alternative products.

Houston crisis centre

Almost 90 different organizations represented at the Houston crisis center – including, for example companies such as Exxon, Shell, Chevron, Conoco-Phillips, Transocean, Cameron, Halliburton, Wild Well Control.

Agencies such as the US Coastguard, US navy, Department for Homeland Security and the Department of the Interior are also present. Total number of people in the centre is over 500 on a daily basis.

HR/ Waivers

There were 7 BP employees on the rig.

Media response on waiver question: "BP staff on the rig were not asked to sign any waiver form pertaining to injuries or other matters associated with the rig incident."

If pressed: "BP staff and others on the rig were subject to mandatory drug testing by urine sample. This is standard practice in this situation. We are not aware of any documentation in that situation that would amount to a waiver for damages or injuries. "

"We would not comment on what happened to staff from any of the other companies on the rig."

We did not have any lawyers on the vessels. None of our staff were asked to sign waivers.

FYI - staff from the rig then went to meet people from their own companies. BP staff have been interviewed about what happened etc. but none were asked to sign any waivers or similar forms.

Questions regarding actions/activities leading to blow-out and explosion

Approved message

We are not going to comment on that sort of detail or speculation about causes. Multiple investigations into the background, circumstances and causes of the tragedy that engulfed the Deepwater Horizon are already underway and will examine all of these aspects in great detail. We will participate fully in them. But to speculate now on the exact detail and the cause of the explosion is premature. This will come out in the investigations.

Safety

Many questions are bound to be asked after an accident as serious and unprecedented as this, including about industry preparedness. We will be co-operating fully with all official investigations and with the Congressional enquiries.

We are determined to get to the bottom of what happened and to learn the lessons so it never happens again.

Transocean's Deepwater Horizon had an unblemished safety record since 2004, according to Mineral Management Service (MMS) Incident of Non-Compliance (INC) data. This rig was just 1 day short of seven years without a DAFWC injury case. One year without a recordable injury.

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Drilling rigs working for BP in the Gulf of Mexico outperformed the industry average on safety for six years running, according to the MMS's drilling rig INC to Inspection Ratio.

BP has been a finalist for the MMS National SAFE (Safety Award for Excellence) Award for the past two years.

Salazar/Napolitano letter to ABH

A letter requesting public declaration of BP willingness to go beyond \$75m cap. Tony Hayward has responded to the letter. We are not releasing copy. Approved message:

- *On the record - what Secretaries Salazar and Napolitano are requesting is consistent with all our public statements on the matter.*
- *As background - the \$75m cap is irrelevant as we have already exceeded that number*

Staff celebration / BP staff on rig story

First it is important to stress that all safety and operational matters on a rig are the responsibility of the rig owner and operator and are carried out by the offshore installation manager, an employee of the rig owner.

Two BP managers (not 4 or 7 as has been reported) joined two T/O managers on a routine visit to the rig. These rig visits are typically quarterly events. On this occasion the managers were planning to mark two safety milestones during their visit: 7 years without a day away from work injury case and one year without a recordable injury.

This would have been done by talking to staff and touring the rig. The other five staff were carrying out typical functions on a rig, ie acting as a representative liaison between the leaseholder and the rig owner and operator. Three BP trainees were onsite at the time for observation of certain rig operations.

BP's gulf operations

In 2009 we produced on average 387,000 barrels of oil a day and 303million cubic feet of gas a day from the Gulf of Mexico Deepwater - together making 440,000 barrels of oil equivalent today.

We are the largest operator in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico (note - not the shallow waters), operating the fields Atlantis, Thunder Horse, Mad Dog, Pompano, Marlin, Horn Mountain and Na Kika.

We also have non-operating interests in fields such as Mars, Ursa, Diana, Hoover and Ram Powell.

GoM deepwater is one of a number of areas around the world where we have focussed our upstream business; these also include the Caspian Sea in Azerbaijan, offshore Angola, onshore US gas, Trinidad Gas, Egypt, and Russia.

Our net production from Russia is much larger than GoM - on average some 943,000 barrels of oil equivalent a day (boed) in 2009.

Production from Trinidad and Tobago was some 456,000 boed in 2009, from onshore lower 48 US around 440,000boed.

Our total oil and gas production worldwide averaged 3.998 million boed in 2009.

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3. Other general facts and figures

Number of BP people working in the US alone on this incident: more than 1,300 since the start of the incident. At least 200 more in the UK

400-500 people in Houston centre alone 60% BP employees – many engineers and technical people working on solutions.

Approximately 10,000 people, including BP staff are currently responding to protect the shoreline and wildlife in total from all agencies.

BP people based at one crisis center in Houston and three command posts: the Area Command is in Robert, Louisiana; one incident command post is in Houma, Louisiana and the other is in Mobile, Alabama.

About 50 people (employees and consultants) are working government, public and community affairs and media.

14 staging areas have been set up to protect vital shoreline in all potentially affected Gulf Coast states (Biloxi, Miss., Pascagoula, Miss., Pensacola, Fla., Panama City, Fla., Dauphin Island, Ala., Grand Isle, La., Shell Beach, La., Slidell, La., Venice, La., Orange Beach, Al., Theodore, Al., Pass Christian, Ms., Amelia, La., and Cocodrie, La.).

Volunteers 11,000 inquiries and 4,000 volunteers have been trained so far to assist with clean up operation.

1,100 vessels of opportunity have been signed.

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press release

May 17, 2010

BP Atlantis

BP today rebutted allegations that its Atlantis platform in the Gulf of Mexico operated with incomplete and inaccurate engineering documents.

Responding to claims that flawed or missing documentation posed a threat to safe operation of the platform, recently made in various news programs and print media, BP said it had thoroughly investigated these claims when they were first made by a former contract worker in 2009 and found them to be without substance.

The investigation found that the operators on the platform had full access to the accurate, up-to-date drawings (topsides, hull and subsea) necessary to operate the platform safely.

A second investigation of the same allegations by the Ombudsman's office focused on project document and filing procedures and had no bearing on operating or regulatory issues. After this review BP made some procedural changes in the project execution plan, but these likewise had no connection with the safe operation of the platform.

"As CEO Tony Hayward constantly makes clear, safe and reliable operations are his number 1 priority for BP and the company has a very strong record of safe and reliable operations in the Gulf of Mexico," a company spokesman said. "It is completely erroneous to suggest that the minor internal process issue we identified and immediately amended last year on the Atlantis platform suggests anything different."

The design, construction, installation and operation of Atlantis have received a high level of oversight by both the US Minerals Management Service (MMS) and the US Coast Guard. BP has and will continue to work with the MMS or any other regulator when concerns are raised about any aspect of our operation.

The Atlantis field has been in service since October 2007 and has safely produced many million barrels of oil. The platform was successfully maintained through the course of two major hurricanes in 2008. Its safety, operations and performance record is excellent.

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