

From: Allen, Thad ADM  
Sent: Sunday, May 23, 2010 7:02:05 AM  
To: Jhl@dhs.gov; John\_O.\_Brennan@who.eop.gov  
Subject: RE: Question

Yes Ma'am,

I would maybe say we are not satisfied with BPs responsiveness. The approach and strategy are fairly well documented in response plans, it is the execution that is the problem. You could then say, due to the remoteness of some areas and the intrusive nature of shore based responses, we are developing a sea based option.

Thad

-----Original Message-----

From: Jhl@dhs.gov [mailto:Jhl@dhs.gov]  
Sent: Sunday, May 23, 2010 6:46 AM  
To: John\_O.\_Brennan@who.eop.gov  
Cc: Allen, Thad ADM  
Subject: Re: Question

Just seeing this now- never got Heidi's original! Think we say we are not satisfied w BPs shoreline approach, that LA marshes need a sea-based approach as well, that we will ensure all measures are taken etc. Thad?

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From: prvs=7529a4b3e=John\_O.\_Brennan@who.eop.gov  
<prvs=7529a4b3e=John\_O.\_Brennan@who.eop.gov>  
To: Heidi E. Avery; JHL@dhs.gov  
Sent: Sun May 23 00:42:01 2010  
Subject: Re: Question

I understood from Thad's comments that the effort is designed to ensure we have someone in a blue uniform in charge, and visibly so, of all Gulf containment activities. He mentioned that contractors had been tapped to perform such duties, which is not the same as having a Coastie in charge. This probably should have happened sooner, but we need to move ahead with this now in any event.

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From: Avery, Heidi E.  
To: 'JHL' <Jhl@dhs.gov>  
Cc: Brennan, John O.  
Sent: Sat May 22 22:38:09 2010  
Subject: Question

Why a significant increased mobilization of the USCG a day or two before the top kill procedure?



If the top kill does not work, would be an obvious precipitating event to have USCG take over in a very visible way. But doing it before, or concurrently, not sure I understand how we get away from storyline that the USG is suddenly waking up. Understand the intended message is that we are not happy as oil is approaching the shoreline, but will that really fly?

And what is Gibbs supposed to say tomorrow on the Sunday shows on why USG not taking over the response? Below are his current TPs.

Not wishing to cause trouble - just wishing to understand the approach better.

Q: Why isn't the U.S. government taking over the response?

- Nobody in this government will be satisfied until BP stops the leak, the oil is cleaned up and the affected people along the Gulf are fully compensated.

- BP, as a responsible party, is charged with capping their leaking oil well and paying for the response and recovery. After Exxon Valdez, and through the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, no longer can a company cause a disaster like this and then expect the taxpayers to clean up their mess.

- However, the USG, as led by the Department of Homeland Security with Admiral Thad Allen serving as the National Incident Commander, is overseeing these actions.

- And, the Federal On Scene Coordinator Rear Admiral Mary Landry coordinates the response on the front line, oversees BP's efforts, and directs additional actions where necessary.

- Since the Deepwater Horizon exploded on April 20, the U.S. government has taken and will continue to take an all hands on deck posture to ensure we are doing everything we can to help BP stop this leak.

- In addition, the USG has been taking and will continue to take an all hands on deck posture to ensure we are doing everything we can to help BP stop this leak.

- With the source being 5,000 feet under the ocean's surface, this has been extremely difficult and the oil companies are the only ones who have the equipment for this.

- Government scientists and engineers are currently working with BP to use the best, most advanced technology that exists to try to stop the flow of oil as quickly as possible.

- The Department of Energy has engaged some of the world's top scientific and engineering minds from Sandia, Los Alamos and Livermore Labs to lend their expertise. These government scientists are reviewing every plan on the table,

validating those that are moving forward and providing additional expertise and input on new tactics.