

From: Benson, William PA3
Sent: Monday, July 25, 2011 9:41:05 AM
To: Hein, Julia CAPT
Subject: RE: AL news story of interest

Attachments: Benson William.vcf

Capt,

I believe he spoke to someone in the D8 staff last week. The only thing we reported to him was that the meeting wasn't open to the public. He never asked for the agenda or what exactly the plan was. I will review his report and point out the lack of factual reporting to him.

Very Respectfully,

PA3 William Benson
Writer/Field Specialist
8th Coast Guard District
Gulf Coast Incident Management Team
Joint Information Center
Duty Cell 985-772-5249
www.restorethegulf.gov

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

From: Hein, Julia CAPT
Sent: Sunday, July 24, 2011 4:38 PM
To: Benson, William PA3
Subject: FW: AL news story of interest

I don't quite know who this person is but he is far from telling the truth. Plans are in place but this is yet another year of rehashing and rehearsing those plans. I will get with our AL SOSC and set him straight on failure to communicate properly and misleading the public. Please ensure your press knows not to quote or assume CG missions and plans without talking to the CG. That is lying to the public.

Thanks,
JH

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

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

From: Utsler, Michael J [<mailto:mike.utsler@uk.bp.com>]
Sent: Sunday, July 24, 2011 01:56 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Hein, Julia CAPT
Cc: Ashby, Crystal E.; Saia, Justin; Gareri, Robert (BP GCRO); McIntosh-Lee, Ayana ; Robinson, Geir; Fontenot, Carla (BP MC252); Wallace, William (BP MC252); Manelos, John; Feick, Hejdi A
Subject: FW: AL news story of interest

Hi Captain Hein,

We should seek to understand what the Ala SOSC has done to communicate the purpose of the meeting next week. Also – we should clarify the nature of the engagements we have held on

Ex 12189
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this issue with state and local EOC's etc for all concerned.

Disappointing given the hard work by all to demonstrate our preparedness for this risk to have this story be a headline. None-the-less an opportunity to work to clarify and communicate in this space.

Thanks,

Mike Utsler

From: Saia, Justin
Sent: Sunday, July 24, 2011 12:14 PM
To: Ashby, Crystal E.; Utsler, Michael J; Robinson, Geir
Cc: Pereyra, Carolynn; Gareri, Robert (BP GCRO); Jeffries, Jeremiah (BP MC252); Jeff Pitts; Joe Perkins, PhD; Grether, C Heidi; Cross, Iris M; Rupp, Keith; McIntosh-Lee, Ayana ; twbeyer; Stallworth, LaToya E.; Ellis, Joe (PSN (PRODUCTION SERVICES NETWORK)); Melick, Ray; Savage, Craig A; Thomas, Curtis L
Subject: AL news story of interest

FYI...this is a front page story in today's Press-Register.

If oil spill tar balls linger offshore, who cleans them up if a storm hits?

Published: Sunday, July 24, 2011, 5:53 AM

By David Ferrara, Press-Register <<http://connect.al.com/user/dferrara/index.html>> Press-Register

More than a month into hurricane season, there's still no plan for what to do if storm surge washes oil onto Alabama's beaches.

The U.S. Coast Guard will host a Wednesday meeting in New Orleans to hash out those details, the mayors of Gulf Shores and Orange Beach said, but the leaders of those coastal cities say they have been shut out of the discussion.

Tony Kennon, mayor of Orange Beach, said that BP has refused for a year to disclose any information about offshore tar mats — areas of solidified oil in near-shore waters — or how they'll be removed.

Should a storm hit, Kennon said, the cities would not have the financial means to clean oil-stained debris.

"Can you imagine the nightmare that would be for us, having to sit there on our thumbs, waiting for the federal government to make a decision?" Kennon asked.

"Their No. 1, first and foremost responsibility is to clean up the mess, clean up the spill," he said. "And they have stonewalled and ignored us to get this tar mat issue swept under the rug. Is this a cover up or a cleanup?"

Tarballs still wash ashore every day, which Orange Beach Coastal Resource Manager Phillip West and others say is an indication that tar mats are scattered across the Alabama coast.

BP spokesman Justin Saia wrote in an email to the Press-Register that sonar equipment had

detected "five total anomalies off Alabama's coast" but that none were "found to be oil from the MC252 Deepwater Horizon spill."

Scientists were still analyzing the data, he added, and a Coast Guard report is expected at month's end.

"Response crews will continue to monitor Gulf beaches and perform necessary maintenance to address surface residue balls," Saia wrote.

For a year, beachfront leaders say, they have been asking the same questions, with little response from BP or federal agencies:

- * What's the toxicity level of the tar?
- * How must it be handled if it washes onto debris?
- * Who would clean up the mess?
- * How must cleanup workers dress?
- * Where would it be dumped?
- * Who would pay for it?

"We can't wait until the morning after the storm to put together a plan," said Gulf Shores Mayor Robert Craft.

The Coast Guard has not disclosed an agenda for its severe weather planning meeting this week.

"It's getting a little late to be working these problems out," West said. "We've been trying to get these answers for too long now."

West envisions logistical problems if oily debris is thrown around the beach.

"Beach access and staging areas are severely limited," he said. "If you have two different contractors going after two different types of storm-generated debris," he said, one will have to be "sacrificed" to recover the other

Dauphin Island Mayor Jeff Collier said that crews excavated one tar mat during a low tide several months ago, but his concern was focused on tarballs that were not cleaned off the beach west of Katrina Cut.

He said that he doesn't want to relive last summer, when the white sands were stained with oil.

"You have the potential of the economic harm, the public relations harm, by leaving this stuff here," Collier said. "And if it ends up on our beaches that have already been cleaned, that's not going to be good. We're already halfway through the summer. We need this to be a good year.

"It's kind of Russian roulette to leave this stuff laying there."

Early this year, however, George Crozier, director of the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, questioned the need to remove tar mats, which would disturb natural habitats. The buried tar represented no serious threat, he said.

http://blog.al.com/live/2011/07/if_oil_spill_tar_balls_linger.html
<http://blog.al.com/live/2011/07/if_oil_spill_tar_balls_linger.html>

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