



Re: RE: disappointment

Bill.Lehr o Rainey, David I

05/24/2010 06:54 AM

Cc: Kathryn_Moran, mcnut, Jane.Lubchenco

History: This message has been replied to.

David,

That is right. Thanks for the quick response.

Bill

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

From: "Rainey, David I" [REDACTED]

Date: Sunday, May 23, 2010 9:30 pm

Subject: RE: disappointment

To: Bill.Lehr@noaa.gov

Cc: Kathryn_Moran@ostp.eop.gov, mcnut@usgs.gov, Jane.Lubchenco@noaa.gov

> Bill,

>

> Just to confirm our conversation.

>

> The riser insertion tool was operational on May 17. We will provide
> video from before the RITT toll was applied.

>

> We also agreed that we should provide video during which no dispersant
> was being applied subsea.

>

> Dave

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Bill.Lehr@noaa.gov [

> Sent: Sunday, May 23, 2010 8:56 PM

> To: Rainey, David I

> Cc: Kathryn_Moran@ostp.eop.gov; mcnut@usgs.gov; Jane.Lubchenco@noaa.gov

> Subject: disappointment

>

> Dear Mr. Rainey,

>

> I have been doing spill response for almost thirty years. During that
> time I have developed great friendships with many in the oil industry.
> We all understand that we need to work together during a spill accident
> in what is an unhappy event for all concerned.

>

> Therefore, I was most disappointed in the reports that I received from
> my experts regarding the latest three videos that BP provided to us. The
> first two videos of the smaller leak near the BOP are excellent, proving
> that BP has access to the quality video that the experts need to do
> their calculations. Unfortunately, the third video of the leaking riser
> is virtually worthless. I have included as a postscript a note from one
> of them demonstrating their frustration as they try to perform these
> measurements.

>

> Has anyone explained to you what I do and my role in government? I am

> a

> response expert. I do not collect evidence for assessing damages. That
> is the task of others. My assignment, and that of this team of experts,
> was to produce a rapid estimate of the leak rate for the response. The
> unified response, including BP, needs to understand the extent of the
> problem we are facing if we are to properly work toward mitigating or
> preventing harm caused by this accident.

>
> I urge BP to cooperate to the greatest extent possible in this common
> mission. We need immediately high quality video of the riser leak of
> sufficient continuity (30 minutes or more) divided into segments that
> can be easily transmitted. We have asked that they be from May 17, where
> the dispersant injector arm can serve as a reference length.

>
> Please call me if you need more information.

>
>
> Regards,

>
> Bill Lehr
> Senior Scientist
> NOAA/ORR
> 206 719 1813 (cell)
> -----

>
> Hi Bill, I have been looking at the video in more detail and I have to
> tell you, BP has done it again.

>
> In my previous email, I told you that the video we got now is of higher
> quality. Unfortunately, I was referring mostly to the two short segments
> on the BOP kink leaks. Those are phenomenal. The long (30
> minute) segment they have sent for the main leak and the end of the
> riser pipe is awful. The first few seconds are OK, darker than anything
> we have seen so far, but OK. It even has a white stick which I imagine
> was put there to scale the images (we would need the
> thickness) but after about 1 minute, the oil plume moves between the
> camera and the pipe and it is almost impossible to see anything. There
> are several occasions when the screen is pitch black and nothing is
> visible. It's hard to believe this is representative of the situation
> down there. We have seen 5 minute clips from 5/17 when they were
> monitoring the dispersant injection that were clear, with no oil
> between the pipe and the camera and with much very better illumination.
> We specifically requested that video because the dispersant injector arm
> could serve as the scale for the image. I have been looking at the other
> videos from 05/10 and 05/08 and although not adequate for PIV (one of
> the them is a zenithal look at the pipe where the oil plume impedes the
> view and the angle is too steep and the other one does not show the full
> pipe outlet, the bottom third is cut off the image) they show the leak
> without major obstruction from the plume itself.

>
> Anyhow, we need a continuous flux of video from BP so that WE can select
> which sections to analyze. As it is, this segment is harder to analyze
> and less representative than anything we have seen so far (although
> higher resolution).

>
> Please let me know if we need to be more specific, but we were very
> clear about what we wanted yesterday morning and they disregarded our
> request.