

Fw: WashPost request

----- Forwarded by Victor F Labson/GD/USGS/DOI on 09/03/2010 02:21 PM -----

From: Victor F Labson/GD/USGS/DOI
To: Barbara W Wainman/DO/USGS/DOI@USGS
Date: 05/27/2010 12:08 PM
Subject: Re: WashPost request

Barbara,

Try this:

The 130,000 to 270,000 range is the portion of the estimate of total spilled volume accounted for by oil observed on the sea-surface from AVIRIS and satellite sensors on May 17. The remainder, dispersed, skimmed, burned and evaporated is roughly equivalent in volume. Corresponding to the lower and upper estimates of flow rate of 12,000 to 19,000 barrels/day the estimate of total volume is 264,000 barrels to 418,000 barrels. This mass balance estimate as yet does not fully account for oil suspended in the sub-surface water column.

From: Barbara W Wainman/DO/USGS/DOI
To: Victor F Labson/GD/USGS/DOI@USGS
Date: 05/27/2010 11:40 AM
Subject: Re: WashPost request

OK Vic does this work

The 130,000 to 270,000 range is the amount of oil that was actually measured with imagery what we actually observed on the surface using AVIRIS on May 17. The remainder, dispersed, skimmed, burned and evaporated is roughly equivalent but we have not calculated a total volume number yet as the evaporated number is not an exact number but an estimate.

Barbara W. Wainman
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(703) 648-5750

From: David Fahrenthold <fahrenthold@washpost.com>
To: Barbara W Wainman <bwainman@usgs.gov>
Cc: Anne-Berry Wade <abwade@usgs.gov>, "Ransom, Clarice" <cransom@usgs.gov>, "Hines, Vic" <vhines@usgs.gov>
Date: 05/27/2010 11:55 AM
Subject: Re: WashPost request

This is the methodology I'm using to estimate *cumulative* flow, then, in the absence of an estimate from McNutt.

Low end: 12,000 barrels a day times 35 days (the time between the sinking of the rig and the beginning of the "top kill) minus 19,563 barrels (the amount captured by the RITT). That yields 400K barrels, or 16.8 million gallons.

High end: 19,000 barrels a day times 35 days (the time between the sinking of the rig and the beginning of the "top kill) minus 19,563 barrels (the amount captured by the RITT). That yields about 645,000 barrels, or 27.1 million gallons.

Does that sound like a reasonable way to approach this?

Thanks,
DF

Barbara W Wainman <bwainman@usgs.gov>
05/27/2010 11:50 AM

To: David Fahrenthold <fahrenthold@washpost.com>
cc: Anne-Berry Wade <abwade@usgs.gov>, "Ransom, Clarice" <cransom@usgs.gov>, "Hines, Vic" <vhines@usgs.gov>
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the only other thing she said was that "It is important to note that the FRTG also estimated that a similar volume of oil to the amount AVIRIS found on the surface has already been burned, skimmed, or dispersed by responders or has evaporated naturally as of May 17th."

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Date: 05/27/2010 11:48 AM
Subject: Re: WashPost request

That's very helpful. But nothing else about the total amount of oil that came out of the pipe?

Thanks,
DF Barbara W Wainman <bwainman@usgs.gov>
05/27/2010 11:46 AM

To: David Fahrenthold <fahrenthold@washpost.com>
cc: Anne-Berry Wade <abwade@usgs.gov>, "Ransom, Clarice" <cransom@usgs.gov>, "Hines, Vic" <vhines@usgs.gov>
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she said "the FRTG estimated that between 130,000 and 270,000 barrels of oil are on the surface of the Gulf of Mexico". As she is testifying right now I cannot clarify that further but that is from the statement.

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Date: 05/27/2010 11:44 AM
Subject: Re: WashPost request

AB and Clarice---

Hey, just wanted to go over something with you. The AP is saying that McNutt actually gave a *cumulative* total in this press conference--meaning a total of all the oil that spilled since the spill began. I talked to Frank at Interior, who said she didn't--she just gave an estimate for the rate of leakage *per day*. Did either one of you hear her talk about a cumulative total? If so, do you remember what it was?

Thanks,

DF