



**Re: Congressional query: availability of Hi-def video**

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**Bill Lehr** o Vic Hines

06/08/2010 06:02 PM

:  
Cc: Marcia McNutt, Mark Sogge  
Please respond to **Bill.Lehr**

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Sounds good.

On 6/8/10 2:53 PM, Vic Hines wrote:

Bill -- Need to make sure what I have with dates is accurate; how's this: "The plume team received an extensive quantity of video Monday that was filmed Thursday following the riser cut, and continues to load the footage onto an FTP site to make all of it accessible to the entire team. While the footage has not been viewed in its entirety, it appears to be the best video quality seen to date."

Thanks,  
Vic

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Vic Hines  
Office of Communications  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Cell: 808-285-2833  
[vhines@usgs.gov](mailto:vhines@usgs.gov)

On Jun 8, 2010, at 2:39 PM, Bill Lehr wrote:

The post-cut videos came without any paper documentation. The files are so extensive that we are still uploading them to our ftp site. I did ask our video people to bring up some files for viewing and it appears to this PIV non-expert to be the best we have received. No one who actually is a PIV expert has complained about the quality of the video.

On 6/8/10 2:01 PM, Marcia K McNutt wrote:

Vic -

You will have to check with Bill about the "hi def" part. Maybe they got hi def, maybe just full resolution regular footage.

Having been the director of the first institution to run HDTV routinely on its ROVs, it is not exactly a turn key refit if these ROVs did not have it to begin with. It requires, in addition to replacing the camera and the camera housing on the ROV, often the pan and tilt. Then you have to replace the top side video decks. And you have to buy all new tapes. And often you have to retrain the pilots because in my experience the typical offshore jockey takes horrible HDTV footage. You can get away with lots of bad zooming with a normal camera that you can never get away with in HDTV. Fortunately this wouldn't be such a big deal just looking at a plume that stays put. It is more of a problem filming animals

that move.

Marcia

**From:** Vic Hines <[vhines@usgs.gov](mailto:vhines@usgs.gov)> [<mailto:Vic Hines <vhines@usgs.gov>>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 08, 2010 4:40 PM

**To:** Marcia McNutt <[mcnutt@usgs.gov](mailto:mcnutt@usgs.gov)>; Bill Lehr <[Bill.Lehr@noaa.gov](mailto:Bill.Lehr@noaa.gov)>; Mark Sogge <[mark\\_sogge@usgs.gov](mailto:mark_sogge@usgs.gov)>

**Subject:** Congressional query: availability of Hi-def video

Marcia, Bill, Mark,

Just received the query at bottom forwarded from Tim West, USGS congressional affairs, asking whether BP has been supplying us with the Hi-def video we need to make our assessments. Believe the query likely stems from a New York Times article (

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/08/us/08flow.html?emc=eta1>) that attributes problems getting video to "BP stonewalling;" see portion of article pasted immediately below. We have a CNN query on this issue as well.

Some scientists involved in the Flow Rate Technical Group say that they would like to produce a better estimate, but that they are frustrated by what they view as stonewalling on BP's part, including tardiness in producing high-resolution video that could be subjected to computer analysis, as well as the company's reluctance to permit a direct measurement of the flow rate. They said the installation of the new device and the rising flow of oil to the surface had only reinforced their conviction that they did not have enough information.

"It's apparent that BP is playing games with us, presumably under the advice of their legal team," Dr. Leifer said. "It's six weeks that it's been dumping into the gulf, and still no measurements."

Are there currently problems getting video, or have these been ironed out? My understanding is that yesterday (Monday) the team started receiving (initially by FTP) hi-def video shot the previous Thursday after the riser was cut; is this accurate?

Vic

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Timothy J West <[twest@usgs.gov](mailto:twest@usgs.gov)>

**Date:** June 8, 2010 1:09:41 PM PDT

**To:** Vic Hines <[vhines@usgs.gov](mailto:vhines@usgs.gov)>

**Cc:** Barbara W Wainman <[bwainman@usgs.gov](mailto:bwainman@usgs.gov)>, Kathleen K Gohn <[kgohn@usgs.gov](mailto:kgohn@usgs.gov)>

**Subject:** Fw: Marcia's Flow Team

Vic: Are you able to get me an answer asap?

Thanks

Tim

----- Forwarded by Timothy J West/DO/USGS/DOI on 06/08/2010

04:08 PM -----

From: Timothy J West/DO/USGS/DOI

To: [Christopher\\_Mansour@ex.ios.doi.gov](mailto:Christopher_Mansour@ex.ios.doi.gov)

Cc: "Urban, Heather" <[Heather\\_Urban@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Heather_Urban@ios.doi.gov)>, Barbara W Wainman/DO/USGS/DOI@USGS

Date: 06/08/2010 04:07 PM

Subject: Marcia's Flow Team

Christopher: I received a call from Ana Unruh Cohen, Deputy Staff Director (Majority) for the House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming. She wants to know if BP has been supplying us with the High Definition video we need to make the new flow estimates. I plan to call Vic Hines, our Western Regional Communications Officer because he has been in Houston working with Marcia and will be able to get me a quick answer. At this point, all indications are that the team is getting all they need, but I want to confirm that before getting back to Ana.

As you may recall, a couple of weeks ago Ana asked for a USGS scientist to come up and brief Members about the Gulf of Mexico. We did that and all went well.

Tim  
703-648-4300