



RE: FRTG

Castle, Anne o McNutt, Marcia K

06/12/2010 08:38 AM

History: This message has been replied to.

That's great Marcia. Please enjoy the day today. Did you forward David's message to the scientists?

Anne

**From:** Marcia K McNutt [mailto:mcnutt@usgs.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 11, 2010 10:57 PM  
**To:** Castle, Anne; Hayes, David; marcia\_mcnutt@usgs.gov  
**Cc:** Lee-Ashley, Matt  
**Subject:** RE: FRTG

Yes, thanks, David. I feel so much better than I did last night and this morning. I had a very nice day at Scripps speaking at their graduation ceremony and basically being unplugged most of the day. I hope that the message was well received by the scientists. I will see them at the meeting in Seattle on Sunday and give you feedback.

Marcia

**From:** Castle, Anne <Anne\_Castle@ios.doi.gov> [mailto:Castle, Anne <Anne\_Castle@ios.doi.gov>]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 11, 2010 3:48 PM  
**To:** "Hayes, David" <David\_Hayes@ios.doi.gov>; "marcia\_mcnutt@usgs.gov" <marcia\_mcnutt@usgs.gov>  
**Cc:** "Lee-Ashley, Matt" <Matt\_Lee-Ashley@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: FRTG  
Thanks for doing this, David.

**From:** Hayes, David  
**Sent:** Friday, June 11, 2010 2:17 PM  
**To:** marcia\_mcnutt@usgs.gov  
**Cc:** Castle, Anne; Lee-Ashley, Matt  
**Subject:** FRTG

Marcia:

Matt and I deeply regret the miscommunication that we had with you regarding the release of the document summarizing the FRTG's latest analysis of the pre-riser-cut flow from the BP oil spill.

As we discussed yesterday, Matt and I thought that the document provided an excellent summary that would help illustrate the care and seriousness with which the members of the Flow Rate Technical Group had approached its reanalysis of the pre-riser-cut flow rate. Also, as you know, we are all committed to a transparent process that shares important information -- such as the report -- with the American people as soon as it is available.

It was for that reason that Matt and I suggested that the document be made publicly available in connection with your announcement of the FRTG's results yesterday. You were open to that approach, but noted that you would need to consult with the members of the FRTG and let them know about this plan, and obtain their concurrence.

Later that day, your press conference went forward and the communications shop posted the short paper. Both Matt and I had assumed that you had had the opportunity to obtain the concurrence of the group prior to the press event in which you described the results of the FRTG's work. We understand now, however, that you were on a very tight schedule, and you had not had a chance to do that. And we understand that some members of your group were very concerned when the paper was posted without their prior knowledge.

It is very regrettable that the loop had not been closed prior to the press conference, and that we had assumed that you had received an ok from the FRTG by the time of the press conference, even as you were assuming that you had more time to consult and get their concurrence. As you know, I had already left the Department to catch a plane by the time of your press conference, and I understand that the subject did not come up in your pre press conference discussions with Matt.

Please let your FRTG members know that this regrettable miscommunication occurred without fault or malice on anyone's part. You were appropriately sensitive to checking with your members prior to the posting of the document.

Thanks again for the continued dedication to this difficult task that you and the FRTG members have shown throughout this exercise. We look forward to your upcoming report.

Thanks.

--David

David J. Hayes  
**Deputy Secretary**  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C.  
202.208.6291