

U.S. Scientific Team Draws on New Data, Multiple Scientific Methodologies to Reach Updated Estimate of Oil Flows from BP's Well

Washington, DC – Secretary of Energy Steven Chu, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, and Chair of the National Incident Command's Flow Rate Technical Group (FRTG) Dr. Marcia McNutt (head of the U.S. Geological ~~Service~~Survey) announced a new estimate of how much oil is flowing from the leaking BP well after the riser was cut June 3.

Based on a combination of analyses conducted by several teams of scientists, including an analysis of new pressure readings from inside the Top Hat obtained over the last 12 hours, and detailed analysis of the ROV video footage, the United States government scientists and the independent scientists working together estimate that the most likely flow rate of oil today is between 35,000 and 60,000 barrels per day.

“This estimate, which brings together several scientific methodologies and the latest information from the sea floor, represents a significant step forward in our effort to put a number on the oil that is escaping from BP's well,” said Energy Secretary Steven Chu. “We will continue to collect data, but it is important that we are planning for the upper estimate – with contingency right now.”

Secretary Chu, Secretary Salazar, and Dr. McNutt convened a group of federal and independent scientists on Monday to discuss new analyses and data points obtained over the weekend to ~~configure~~produce updated flow rate estimates. The new flow rate estimate brings together the work of several scientific teams and is the first estimate of how much oil has been flowing out of the riser since June 3, when the riser was cut.

“We need to have accurate and scientifically grounded oil flow rate information both for the purposes of the response and recovery and for the final investigation of the failure of the blowout preventer and the resulting spill,” said Interior Secretary Salazar. “This estimate, which we will continue to refine as the scientific teams get new data and conduct new analyses, is the most comprehensive estimate so far of how much oil is flowing 5,000 feet below the ocean's surface.”

“Each of the methodologies that the scientific teams is using has its advantages and shortcomings, which is why it is so important that the scientific teams have taken several approaches to solving this problem,” said Dr. McNutt. “Under the leadership of Admiral Allen, we will continue to revise and refine the flow rate estimate as our scientific teams get new data and conduct additional ~~analysis~~analyses.”

The FRTG was assembled at the direction of National Incident Commander Admiral Thad Allen, and is led by United States Geological Survey Director Dr. Marcia McNutt. The FRTG, and a scientific team led by Energy Secretary Steven Chu, continue to analyze new data and use several scientific methodologies to develop updated estimates of how much oil is flowing from BP's leaking oil well in the Gulf of Mexico.

For a list of FRTG Team membership [click here](#).

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