



Re: Tar Balls 

Marcia K McNutt  o Mark K Sogge

06/19/2010 01:38 PM

Mark -

Can u come pick me up? My car won't start and I have a call at 1. My batteries are dead.

From: Mark K Sogge
Sent: 06/19/2010 10:14 AM CDT
To: Marcia McNutt
Subject: Re: Tar Balls

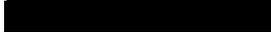
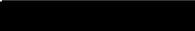
No problem... I've got you covered here. I hope you get to feeling better quickly.

Mark

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From: Marcia K McNutt/DO/USGS/DOI
To: Mark K Sogge/DO/USGS/DOI@USGS
Date: 06/19/2010 09:58 AM
Subject: Re: Tar Balls

Mark -

I am really down for the count today 
. So I am just going to lay down in the dark for a while. Also my iPhone died, so
until I can get it fixed or get a new one call me on my 

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

From: Mark K Sogge

Sent: 06/18/2010 07:24 PM EDT

To: Victor Labson

Cc: Marcia McNutt

Subject: Re: Tar Balls

Great trivia! I had a physics professor who used a Volkswagen Beetle in at least one question on every test (including one on harmonic frequencies). Perhaps you can figure out how many "tar Volkswagens" we would need to account for....

Mark

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From: Victor F Labson/GD/USGS/DOI

To: Marcia K McNutt/DO/USGS/DOI@USGS, Mark K Sogge/DO/USGS/DOI@USGS

Date: 06/18/2010 06:18 PM

Subject: Tar Balls

Just because I could, and the fact that I am tired of everything else I am doing, I engaged in a little tar ball trivia. Tar balls are to the spill much like dark matter is to the astrophysicist. We can't see them but we know they must be there. There are about 1400 tennis balls per bbl of weathered oil. To add 20,000 bbl of weathered oil to the mass balance requires a density of 0.0016 tennis ball sized tar balls per square meter of sea surface. Not a very high density but potentially a lot of "available" oil. This analysis assumes uniform density and a few other silly things, but you can see where it might go. We could do footballs, baseballs, basketballs, hockey pucks...

Vic