OIL SPILL
6/3/2010 9 A.M.
MOBILE, ALABAMA

Disclaimer: This transcript begins with the first mention of the topic and introductions.

(0:00:07.9)
MODERATOR: The question is, who could be in charge and start a grassroots?

(0:00:14.4)
MODERATOR: Not just grassroots. I want somebody over everything.

(0:00:18.0)
MODERATOR: Okay.

(0:00:19.8)
MODERATOR: I want leading.

RESPONDENT: I'm sorry. We mentioned this a little bit earlier that by law, the Coast Guard is the lead responding agency. Underneath the Coast Guard, at their National Incident Command Center in Washington and at each of their Unified Command Centers across the Gulf of Mexico, there are representatives from each of your public health and environmental agencies there. There are representatives from Minerals Management Services, FDA, NOAA, EPA, CDC, all agencies sent their liaisons to each of these command centers. So, they have input into… You're talking about a coordinated response and this is exactly why they are there, is to help us assure that there is a coordinated response. Those liaisons transmit information from Admiral Thaddeus Allen, who is the overall commander in the response. He's the chief of the response, and he helps coordinate all of the other agencies to make sure they're doing what their individual roles are with minimal overlap so that we can respond to this.

(0:01:32.2)
MODERATOR: Okay. I can make myself. I want to know who's going to be in charge of solving the problem. All of these agencies are wonderful. We need somebody who's going to coordinate this and say, solve the problem, get the job done, do it. We got Apollo 13 back, and let me tell you, that was a miracle in itself. I just want somebody who says, okay, I want the President to appoint somebody who says, we're going to take all these people in, get the job done. That's all I'm asking. Who's going to get the job done?

OIL SPILL
6/3/2010 9 A.M.
MOBILE, ALABAMA

RESPONDENT: As far as Bob said, after the Exxon Valdez, Congress passed the law of the Oil Pollution Act, which set up exactly to answer those kind of questions that you just posed, ultimately it's the President that is the one who directed. We are now mobilizing as part of the administration to increase the administration or the different agencies' input by three times, I believe. That's what he indicated last week, and so we are in the process of doing that. Each agency has different responsibilities. For instance, NOAA is mainly on the oceanographic science. Each part is doing their and all gets fed in through this joint and through National Incident Command. Beyond an answer like that, I certainly understood your frustration. Believe me, I hear it loud and clear and getting that frustration translated up to where people can. That's well understood, but it's also frustrating from this level to try to figure out how we can really get your level of frustration on their radar to understand that people are scared, people are frustrated, people are losing sleep, a lot of sleep. It's not a matter of people don't care, they certainly do. We're going through the process.

(0:03:46.8)
MODERATOR: That’s right, they do care, everyone cares. Now, solve the problem.

(0:04:04.2)
MODERATOR: This is how you gain the system, you just keep rotating. (Chuckle) Now, I know how to gain the system. Okay. We're talking about the Oil Pollution act of 1990. I've read the entire act and in the second paragraph, it says the federal government shall direct all public and private responses to an oil spill. It further states that there is one billion dollars in the Trust Fund, the Oil Pollution Act Trust Fund per spill. Okay? I'm wondering, where the hell is that money, number one, and why has the federal government in mass not taken control? I've been really, really addressing the White House and all the powers there'd be because I know that you are not individually responsible for this. The White House and the various agencies that are involved, EPA et al, they should have taken control of this from the beginning, because as of the April 27th closed door meeting which was reported in the Mobile Press Register, they all knew -- NOAA and the BP folks there -- all knew that this was potentially gigantic and they'd never dealt with anything like this before. Why on earth would they not call in all the Department of Defense and so on, the supertankers. To me, Gates would be the best one to head this up because the Coast Guard is doing the best they can, but they are one agency. I would like to know why the federal

government is disobeying their own Oil Pollution Act which is US Law? The last time I checked, the citizens have a right for the federal government to obey the law that is on the books. (MARY KING)

RESPONDENT: Mary, this is your comment about DOD and Navy. I can tell you, I'm situated at Stennis Space Center and work for Navy ***[0:06:06.2 inaudible]*** office for many years. NASA is working on using their satellite imagery but I can tell that Navy is producing the Navy Coastal Ocean Model which is used by all of the modelers to understand the current structure and the physical dynamics of the ocean. Navy is also deploying gliders that will actually go through these plumes to be able to identify characteristics. Navy is taking a very active role. I just want you to know that there are elements within DOD that are working hard on this.

(0:06:35.3)
MODERATOR: I appreciate that a lot of them are in an advisory capacity or in a testing capacity as you indicated, and that's super, but I've talked to retired naval officers that said we have submarines. We have container ships. We have skimming boats. We have the blotters, we have all the equipment. Air Force could be dropping specialized...

RESPONDENT: Having come from DOD, I understand completely.

(0:06:57.2)
MODERATOR: You know what I'm talking about?

RESPONDENT: I know exactly. Mm-hmm (Affirmative).

(0:06:58.8)
MODERATOR: There are minuscule efforts being contributed by all of those agencies and they're great advisory as well, but where are all the ships? Where is all the aircraft? Where is the Merchant Marine? They could be out there in force, and they're not.

RESPONDENT: All we can do at this table is go back to our leaders and bosses and make sure your voice is heard.

(0:07:19.7)
MODERATOR: Thank you.

RESPONDENT: I promise you, it will be.

OIL SPILL
6/3/2010 9 A.M.
MOBILE, ALABAMA

(0:07:22.1)
MODERATOR: The other thing about the tankers, because they can order BP, you get tankers from Exxon, you get them from Shell, you get them from all these private companies and you have our models of tankers picking up this oil, because then it won't affect all these people's lives forever and ever.

RESPONDENT: We'll make sure that message comes back.

(0:07:39.0)
MODERATOR3: And poison your Gulf.

(0:07:40.6)
MODERATOR4: Who wrote the Press-Register article?

(0:07:42.8)
MODERATOR3: I have no idea. It might have been Achenbach. I'm not sure.

(0:07:42.8)
MODERATOR4: That was May 27.

(0:07:47.4)
MODERATOR3: No. The meeting, this is key. The meeting was held. The closed door meeting was held April 27th. There was a chalkboard in the room at that meeting and they took a video of it, and it's a still video. It said 64,000K to 110,000K barrels per day. They were looking at their worst-case scenario and of course, later, the scientist confirmed this, renowned scientists when they saw the plumes. By the way, the Coast Guard and BP refused to release video. We all know that. To answer your question, May 1, Mobile Press Register video and I'll be glad to send it to you if you want.

(0:08:32.4)
MODERATOR: Remember that all of these questions are going to be on the transcript so we will be sharing those. These public meetings are one of the first large series of public meetings that have been held to get you information. So, they're being watched and a lot of people will be getting those transcripts. Those questions are going to be raised.

RESPONDENT: Thank you.

OIL SPILL
6/3/2010 9 A.M.
MOBILE, ALABAMA

I just have one quick question here to possibly Mr. Dickey and even to Sea Grant, and it has to do with the Alaska Oil Spill. With today's technology, is there any way that a Skype or anything could be set up with the panel of people that have already dealt with this up in Alaska? Where we could get first-hand knowledge from this on how this affected their life, or how this affected their health, or how this affected their seafood and mutations or whatever? Is there any way that we as the public could ever have a forum where we would be able to ask them questions and how they dealt with it?

(0:09:40.4)
MODERATOR: Could you get LaDon to answer that for us, please? There was the Alaskan, we had a forum about a month ago, and I'll let LaDon address that with people from Alaska. He didn't hear the question? Would you mind posing it again for LaDon because he can answer your question. Okay.

LADON: I have 14 saved voice mails and three of them are from my colleagues in Alaska. We can do that. We weren't trying to be exclusive. When they were down, we were very concerned that people would start comparing it directly with what happened with the Valdez spill and this one. We learned a lot and if we can get them down again, we'd like to share that. What we did learn, the oil may be a lot different, the impacts on the society, you already seen it come true. Things are written in the paper this morning, the classic symptoms and some of the worst things that happened in Alaska. We will do what we can do to get them back down here, if you're willing for us to do that. Okay? They have a lot of information on the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council. They prepared a lot of things for us in the gulf as a result. They feel our pain right now, they've felt it, and I'm sure we could do that, but not in a week.

(0:11:23.7)
MODERATOR: Thank you. Dave? Who's next? All right.

(0:11:36.5)
AUDIENCE: We're not done. Okay. This is about the Exxon Valdez. Yesterday, I was in an Orange Beach meeting. We had about 700 people there and a very different format, very interesting because all questions were allowed to be asked from the floor. We signed up, of course. Everyone was very polite. Everybody heard everyone else's question. They did not split up into groups. I find this a little odd.

The big group sometimes is better. Concerning the Exxon Valdez, there was a very informative speaker there and if I had been in a small group, I might not have heard her. She was there at the Exxon Valdez, lived there for years, and was some sort of special official. I can't recall her name, I should have gotten that. Anyway, she spoke to the health effects of the Exxon Valdez disaster and they were significant. We're talking about long-term carcinogenic effects, we're talking about respiratory effects, on and on and on. With the use of dispersions with the oil hitting the beaches, with the air quality not really known, we have other countries involved. This is pretty frightening stuff and I would think that we would learn from the Exxon Valdez and all the health effects, not just for fish, but I'm talking about people. When we have, as I mentioned before, methodologies to safely take care of this in other ways, there's really no wonderful way to take care of it, but there are safer ways. This speaker was absolutely dramatic, because she also talked about the way Exxon Valdez did not pay the claims either. That was going on at the meeting yesterday. That's another whole issue and I won't even bother you with that which is critical and of course, the loss of life is critical.

(0:13:31.2)
MODERATOR: Do you have a question?

(0:13:32.6)
AUDIENCE: The question is...I thought comments were also allowed by the way?

(0:13:37.4)
MODERATOR: Questions.

(0:13:37.6)
AUDIENCE: Okay. This is the question, why has the federal government not learned from Exxon Valdez and all the health effects that are known? Okay? We're talking about fish toxicology here. I'm talking about human toxicology here. Why has this not been addressed big time?

(00:14:01.1)
MODERATOR: Okay. Thanks. Let's stay here.

RESPONDENT: I've mentioned in our previous forums that there is quite a bit of history on oil spills dating back to Exxon Valdez. There is a lot of

literature on lessons learned and the Federal agencies have reviewed that. The toxicologist, for example, that's been working with the FDA on seafood safety. He was there. He actually went back and he was in front of the native of populations. He wrote the book, he wrote the methodology for determining levels for subsistence populations. There was a wide variety of socioeconomic effects from that as well as public health effects from the Exxon Valdez that you're referring to. I really like to know who the person was so I can look up the information too.

(0:15:02.1)
AUDIENCE: I tell you, I don't know her name, but it was a lady, and the mayor, Mr. Kennon of Orange Beach, will know her name.

RESPONDENT: Okay. All right.

(0:15:13.2)
AUDIENCE: She apparently was considered an expert. She made quite a presentation and she was giving a lot of facts and figures which were not disputed. Who is she? She's a marine toxicologist.

RESPONDENT: Okay.

(0:15:33.2)
AUDIENCE: She's not a peon here. She knows what she's talking about.

RESPONDENT: Okay.

(0:15:37.6)
AUDIENCE: She was also talking about human exposure. For instance, my grandchildren are coming, supposedly, Monday. I'm not staying here with them if it's in the air. I'm going to have to leave and probably relocate because of this. I'm just a peon here. A lot of these people are losing their entire livelihood, fishermen, hotel owners, whatever.

RESPONDENT: To continue the response to your concerns, and I understand it completely, I know that there is a lot of social work done up in Alaska. The Department of Health and Human Services, they have teams down across the Gulf of Mexico for the same purpose, for both economic and stress-type responses.

(0:16:21.9)

OIL SPILL
6/3/2010 9 A.M.
MOBILE, ALABAMA

AUDIENCE: This is not stress. This is called health. This is called breathing, swimming...

RESPONDENT: CDC is also on the scene, and they have set out teams to do precisely this.

(0:16:33.9)
AUDIENCE: Precisely what?

RESPONDENT: To monitor the population for any incidents or any suspicion of illness. You can check out the cdc.gov website and they'll tell you what are the...

(0:16:45.9)
AUDIENCE: I'm talking about physical illness.

RESPONDENT: I'm talking about physical illness, also.

(0:16:50.9)
AUDIENCE: You're talking about stress as well?

RESPONDENT: I'm talking about stress as well. HHS has teams down for that and CDC has teams down for...these are doctors, the physicians. They've got a program going quite extensive, also.

(0:17:05.0)
AUDIENCE: That's good but you don't pat someone on the head when their house is burning down. You put the fire out.

RESPONDENT: I don't understand that.

(0:17:11.6)
AUDIENCE: You don't understand that?

RESPONDENT: I don't understand what you're trying to tell me.

(0:17:13.6)
AUDIENCE: Okay. What I'm saying is, you're talking about stress and it's...

RESPONDENT: No. I was going to give you the full spectrum from economic and socioeconomic all the way to physical illness.

(0:17:26.7)

OIL SPILL
6/3/2010 9 A.M.
MOBILE, ALABAMA

AUDIENCE: You were talking about social workers.

RESPONDENT: Social to MDs, to doctors, to physicians.

(0:17:32.5)
AUDIENCE: Okay. Good. That's marvelous to have the entire spectrum. When you're talking about social workers, I used to be a social worker and guess what, we didn't deal with health at mass.

RESPONDENT: I'm a seafood safety guy. I'm just telling you what I've seen and what I've talked to my CDC colleagues about and my HHS colleagues about. We know that these things are ongoing.

(0:17:53.8)
AUDIENCE: It's air.

RESPONDENT: That's EPA.

(0:17:56.5)
AUDIENCE: It's metabolic.

RESPONDENT: They've talked about the EPA. The deputy administrator talked about all of that of course.

(0:18:01.0)
AUDIENCE: Good. I'm glad to hear that.

(0:18:01.0)
MODERATOR: We have one more question and we're going to wrap it up with this one last question.

(0:18:09.7)
SALLY: My name is Sally, once again. My question for you is logistics, I guess. Everyone in this room knows how bad it's going to be once it hits the beaches. My question is, are we really working as hard as we can to stop the oil from reaching the beaches? I understand a little bit about the tar balls and the difference between that and the other one. Anyway, my question is, where is the people who have the skimmers that are out there? It looks like they're ready now. Where are they putting this oil? Where is this oil going to be put? If somebody has oil, just me, if it comes in to the beach and I have this little thing of oil, where do I bring it?

OIL SPILL
6/3/2010 9 A.M.
MOBILE, ALABAMA

MODERATOR: You don't touch it.

(0:19:11.9)
SALLY: I understand I'm not supposed to touch it, but I feel like people aren't getting the big picture here, I understand that all of you are doing what you are supposed to.

MODERATOR: We have a phone number posted up here on the wall. If you should have any tar balls or anything on the beach, these are the numbers you should call.

(0:19:33.8)
SALLY: Which one?

MODERATOR: Right there. That 866 it’s a toll-free number.

(0:19:39.6)
SALLY: I've already been to a meeting. I have that number posted on my refrigerator. My thing is, I don't want it on my beach and I plan on putting something out to collect that oil before it gets to my beach. Now, I don't have the smarts that the people here have. I don't have the background that the people here have.

(0:20:00.0)

SALLY: I don't have the background that the people here have. I do understand that you can't stop me from trying to do something. Once I get that oil, I want to know where do I bring it? That's my question. I also want to know can people salvage that oil? Can people go out there salvage that oil? That oil may belong to BP but they haven't done their job in containing it. Can it not be salvaged now? Sorry, two questions.

RESPONDENT: It's got bad stuff in it.

(0:20:43.9)
MODERATOR: Could you fill out a card for us because that's a coast guard question and an EPA question. We don't have the right experts here. That concludes our session for today. We would like to thank you very much for coming.

OIL SPILL
6/3/2010 9 A.M.
MOBILE, ALABAMA

RESPONDENT: Why are you trying to run us off? ***[0:20:59.5 inaudible]***

HARRIET: We had a question yesterday, and maybe LaDon can help with this. There seems to be a sense of frustration for people who want the necessary kind of training to go out and handle this in a safe manner. It seems to be awfully expensive. I don't believe that she's here now. But someone, I think, really needs to address some sort of training for those individuals that's not going to cost 4 of $500, but would give them some realistic way of dealing with something if it was on their property. Maybe that's something that Sea Grant could look into, which is perhaps better information for the average person.

(0:22:01.2)
MODERATOR: Can anybody answer that? We are not trying to run you off. We didn't have anymore people on the list to ask any questions, so we were going to wrap up, but we can sit here if there are more questions.

RESPONDENT: ***[0:22:12.5 inaudible]***

(0:22:16.6)
MODERATOR: I apologize.

RESPONDENT: He could have talked. He was still talking and you go and try to get the mic from me.

(0:22:24.0)
MODERATOR: We are happy to stay until 12.

RESPONDENT: ***[0:22:27.7 inaudible]***

LADON: Can I borrow... I've asked these folks to take two days out of their life when they've got other things that are very important as well. The reason we're having these meetings is, and the reason they've agreed, because I think we all recognize that transparency and public outreach is essential to us dealing with this issue. With that said, if any of these folks are willing to stay and answer more questions, that's their decision. I'm not asking them to do that. Harriet I heard I was volunteered, we've approached BP through the Alabama Cooperative Extension System in the city states extension system about home owner training. We all, now if you

are a waterfront home owner, there's a number over there to call for you to report an oil spill. But I live in on Fowl River. I know the waterfront home owners over there and they're not going to call anybody. They're going to be out there and if you're lucky, they'll put on a pair of those latex gloves that you buy to wash your hand and be out there cleaning up. There is a need for that for waterfront home owners. With that said, we suggest that we had a meeting with unified command two weeks ago and we have not heard anything back from them.

RESPONDENT: They're studying it (Laughs).

LADON: I'm going to pass it back on and the same applies for the facilitators, they too have been very faithful to dealing with transparency issues and if any of those folks, I'll stick around as long, I'll stay till the cows come home.

RESPONDENT: You have other panel members ***[0:24:16.4 inaudible]*** questions you might have had. I don't know if any other ***[0:24:28.6 inaudible]***.

(0:24:35.0)
MODERATOR: You mentioned earlier that you could give a brief overview of things they should be doing if they, before it's too late for legal perspectives, do you want to give a brief…

RESPONDENT: Yes, I mean, I understand. I don't know if that's what they ***[0:24:49.3 inaudible]***.

RESPONDENT: They're not in their heads (Laughs).

RESPONDENT: ***[0:24:56.3 inaudible]***

(0:24:59.0)
STEPHANIE: It's not me and LaDon, it's 11:30. My name is Stephanie Showwalter. I'm the director with the Mississippi Alabama Sea Grant Legal Program. We're based at the University of Mississippi School of Law. We are academic lawyers. We do not participate in litigation. Our role is to provide neutral legal information to Sea Grant constituents to the general public. We have produced some fact sheets out there. Our role today, I know that there was much more pressing matters in this room than in our room. Our goal today was to try help people navigate the uncertainty that comes

with being at the center of a disaster like this when law firms descend on you. One thing that we've been trying to tell people, just remember that our ethical roles of lawyers say that you should not solicit clients. It is improper for a lawyer to contact you if you haven't had previous contact with their firm. If you go to a town hall meeting, or something, an event that a law firm is hosting, then you have provided their contact information and they can contact you. It's improper for them to come to your door to call you or to come to the boat docks and talk to you about that. Be cautious if an attorney or an attorney's representative contacts you. The other thing to keep in mind is that in Alabama you have two years to file a state law suits in state court for something like negligence for those state claims. You do have some time to consider your options with respect to your damages. You may wish to pursue a claim against BP to see what they have to say. You should still have time to pursue conversations with attorneys and class action lawsuits or individual lawsuits. That's what we've been trying to get out there. But there is time that you need to make sure that you consider all your options and that if you're in the claims process with BP and you start to receive documents from BP, it would be advisable to find an attorney that you're comfortable with to review those documents and make sure that you are not waiving any future rights that you might be interested in. I did not mean to hijack the panel, but I thought there might be more questions out there and so I thought I'd speak up.

AUDIENCE: I read an editorial a while back. No dates can't remember about filling in Katrina Cut. I went to a meeting after that and I asked the question to one of the people representing Baldwin County there. How likely is that to happen? It made sense to me. Dauphin Island is a barrier island, it protects the mainland. She told me that there was actually a study by the Sea Lab that computerized study, that said that there was going to be a bunch of oil coming in through Katrina Cut. Well it was the same thing, couldn't sleep. I called John Hodar, I've talked to my priest,.. I've talked to politicians. The next morning, I get up and the governor has been down there. There's an article about filling in Katrina Cut. The lady who explained it to me at the meeting I was before said it's very expensive. Well, you know what? Let's do a lot of money up front to make a big stop rather than to just filter out all this money to these booms that are being moved around everywhere. My question is, is it likely that Katrina Cut is going to be filled in? I

understand it's big, it's deep and there's a lot of sand that has to be moved.

RESPONDENT: Louisiana is dealing with that same question. There was a meeting and I apologize if I'm repeating myself, but there was a meeting yesterday or the day before yesterday in New Orleans at the New Orleans Army Corps to talk about the six booms or six burms that were being made. I think, again, the contact for that and the Mobile district would be the ones to call in and I don't have that number off hand. But that's the Army Corps of Engineers. They are the ones handling the berm question. I know that Allen was over there for that meeting on Tuesday afternoon at the district over there. I finally understand that all six of those burms have been approved which clears way for BP to have to pay for those.

(0:29:57.2)
AUDIENCE: Well and good and I thank you for that and for giving me another place to go to. My concern is Mobile Bay and all the estuaries and all the little fingers of water and wetlands that make this such a thriving place. My thing is I want to solve the problem here. I want to write in bold letters, solved the problem. Because I appreciate each one of you guys coming up. I don't want you to feel like we're shooting the messenger, because I don't want to shoot the messenger. I want to get to the person, or I want people to starting to think how are we going to create a problem-solving force? You guys, you're doing more and above than anybody would expect you to. I don't want you to think that I'm not appreciative of what you're doing. I just want embolden across everybody's forehead: solve the problem. How are we going to solve the problem? Who is the most likely person that can solve the problem? I can tell you we can talk about the fish kills, I mean we're preaching to the choir here. We got people who make their livelihood off the… what's breathing in the estuaries right now? What's in the wetlands right now? They understand it. I don't think the people making decisions understand it. The people with the power to make the decisions understand it. Therefore I want to solve the problem. Let's see who we need to talk to. Who do we need to go to next? Thank you. Thank you truly for coming here and putting this on.

BUCK: Well, thank you. I think the best way to answer that question is, and that is I can only speak for myself so I volunteered to come down here, a lot of it because I have a high level of trust in LaDon and we partner with Sea Grant on a lot of activities. I know the biggest question a lot of people have, is what the heck is going on

and how do I get any answer for that? At least in my position within NOAA I have the capability to talk to the director of NOAA the conference call with them every morning at 7 o'clock in the morning, and talking about what's going on. It's only been recently that they have been now reaching out to people who are working in this region. So they can get it and put, so they want to know. I wanted to come here, and where I'm going to Grand Island later on tonight to do the same thing, is to get that, where are the questions? I mean sometimes they get in Washington, and it'll lose a sense of what's happening on the ground. My purpose of at least of my being here and I'm sure I'm speaking for the other folks too, so that we can take that back top our senior leadership which we do have access to and to tell them these are the things people are not hearing the solutions to. How could we be clear about it. Not everybody has Internet or even is that… so we need to find some way to communicate in a way that people understand. Not in some kind of scientific mumbo jumbo, but actually speaking in plain English, so people would understand what's going on. Like LaDon said, this is not going to be the only time we have one of these things. This is going to be an ongoing process that may last for years and years. I don't really know from environmental and looking at the whole ecosystem, but our responsibility as public servants, is take the questions that you have and not just pass them off and go on to the next meeting, but to take them and get those patterns so we can start thinking ahead as things change. We are in a dynamic situation. As we get those answers, we know this are the kind of things people want to find out and get that answer to them as quickly as humanly possible. Because I understand that this is a very frustrating thing that none of us have quite frankly, none of us has ever had to do. Unlike the Exxon Valdez that was a one-time stall that was right there. They knew how much there was there. This on, your hopes are up, your hopes are down. It's not a healthy situation. From just a trying to live day to day stand point. One of the things we can do is if the federal government is to give you all the information we know, and if we don't know we'll tell you. We just don't know, but we're trying to find that out. That's why I'm here.

HARRIET: I think too, Jim and I have spent 42 years of our life in the marsh in Mississippi and we know how tied we are to it and to the organisms that we work with. But I think what people don't understand at levels above us, particularly for the fishing communities and Louisiana and ***[0:35:36.9 inaudible]*** is how

intertwined people's lives are and how dependent they are. It's everything. It's their livelihood, it's their life, it's their socialization. It's everything to them. It's hard to convey that. But at the local level, we do care and we do try to take your worries and concerns to those who can help, maybe perhaps help with those fears and the anxiety and the unknown. We feel it, too. It's hard to think I've driven the same road for 42 years, and it's beautiful. I go down Davis Bayou to the laboratory and Jim and I can't bear the thought of seeing that covered in oil.

JIM: We were all very concerned, of course. You know we spent our lives studying this, our environment here. Our local marine environment here. This has been our life as well, and we feel how you feel. We're doing everything we possibly can. I think we can assure you that everyone in this table is doing everything they possibly can. It's not only our jobs but it's our lives, too.

AUDIENCE: You hit it on the head. It's not you all. You all live here, this is your life. If I was to ask you all, who are your bosses that you answer to? I'd get about six different answers in some different bosses. You ask them, they have about six different bosses. It trickles up. They don't know this. They don't understand. I worked for FEMA during Katrina. They sent these people from up North down here to run this thing. They didn't understand a fit about our culture. They couldn't communicate with the people down here, is why we have so much of a problem in Katrina. We are having the same problem now. They don't understand. That's it, thank you. (Applause).

KEN: I think being a meteorologist, first and foremost, we said this at the governor's press conference yesterday. It was a lot of talk about all and that was the big concentration here. You can tell I was kind of last to speak here, but we better for hurricane seasons as well. Because you saw our forecast. It's going to be busy guys. I'm not kidding. I mean, all the parameters say it's going to be one of the busiest that we've had for a long time... The key take-away is, let's be ready for hurricane season. The bottom line is, don't expect the size of the oil to impact the hurricanes. We saw Katrina, I was in ***[0:38:59.6 inaudible]*** for Katrina. We didn't have a TV actually. We didn't even know that was going on in New Orleans it was pretty interesting. We had to get a little radio outside. It was no power and no signal. It was interesting... the bottom line is there could be some oil in the storm surge. That's our most vulnerable part we have to go off what will be in there?... That's the key point

is the track. The key point of this is the track. If you have a hurricane that hits Western Louisiana, we are going to have a onshore flow. You are going to have onshore flow with that oil. That's going to impact those. That oil will be blown in... You could have oil in the storm search and that's salt water absolutely. The other factor is if you have a hurricane hit further to the East over the pan of Florida. You could have offshore flow that could actually blow all the oil out. It's going to depend on the track where the oil's going to go... Yes, that's a key takeaway, too. There's a lot of unknowns with this. But I can tell you, where ever the surge goes you could have oil in that surge absolutely. We got to look at it. Because we do not expect, like I said no track difference, probably no intensity difference because there's oil. It's going to be turned up pretty big...

RESPONDENT: Time is running out and nobody knows except us right here... I mean we're circled up by people who feel better ***[0:40:32.0 inaudible]*** nobody else is feeling that urgency. People who make the decisions without the power. Tom, you are exactly right and I'm going to tell you , you nailed it. You nailed exactly… and I guess right now, we have ***[0:40:48.4 inaudible]*** in America should have a sense of emergency.

(0:40:53.0)
MODERATOR: Is there anyone else who has a question? If no one else has a question, I would like to thank everyone for attending. If you have questions, write them down. If you have solutions write those down, too. You have my email address and send them to me.

END OF AUDIO.