OIL SPILL
6/2/2010 9 A.M.
BILOXI, MS

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

(AUDIO STARTS ABRUPTLY.)

(0:00:00.5)
AUDIENCE1: Now, I'm aware of a lot of efforts that are going on right now to monitor the wildlife -- marine mammals and birds and turtles and a lot of the things. There's a lot of endangered and protected species both that are going to that are being affected or going to be affected by this. I know there's a lot of shoreline activity going on. What I'm curious about is what's going on out in the areas that are being affected. I've heard estimates that the spill depth and where it's all being affected is up to 3,000 feet deep, as well as the breadth and how far it goes across. What's being done to monitor the wildlife that that's already out in those areas? Like I said I know there's lots of stuff going on in the shoreline with turtles and dolphins and those kind of thing showing up on the shore, but there's a lot of impact already occurring out there and how is that being monitored?

BUCK: Right from the beginning of the oil spill now with started over flights basically going parallel lines off from the shore out past where the spill site is doing aerial surveys for counting turtles, different species of things if it was possible. Also marine mammals, different types of dolphins and sperm whales and things like that. Those are ongoing, so whenever they have flown over both waters that don't have oil or the ones that do have or at least on the surface, they are still doing those surveys every day. That's an ongoing thing. We're in the 44th day or 46th day, I can't remember. That started almost immediately for those surveys. They are ongoing. They also have ships out there that are doing well, NOAA ships, also University of South Florida, the Miami and Louisiana research vessels are also being coordinated out there doing different topics. But specifically to your question about plumes and things, there has been acoustic work and also, which is a very, very fine frequency that looks for differential in water density, and they're mapping that out to where it's going. They're also taking plankton samples when they plan to see if there are fish eggs and larvae in those areas. They're also taking a contract with charter vessels and commercial fishing to catch yellow fin tuna and such to test the quality and see if there's any oil signs or dispersants in the flesh of the fish as well. There's a whole combination of, I

think right now there's seven research vessels that are out there between the university and NOAA, also working with EPA to do not only water samples but air samples as well. There's a whole array of things that are going on for water quality, air quality and fisheries and as well as endangered species. That is reported out daily, and there's NOAA website has all the information on at least marine mammals and for sea turtles and for both on ones that have been spotted as well and the ones that have been necropsied with the ones that did, unfortunately, pass away earlier in May.

(0:03:53.4)
AUDIENCE1: So you said that data is being made available to the...

BUCK: It's on the deepwaterhorizon.noaa.gov website.

(0:04:06.7)
RESPESS: Thank you. Next, Dave.

DONNA: I have a question. How many Mississippi vessels are Hazmat trained and ready to go to work? It's been reported 900 plus boats are already trained, yet many of my family and friends who have turned in their vessel of opportunity contracts have never been contacted by BP to work in any manner, any capacity. Anybody have that answer? See a lot of it. (Chuckle)

(0:04:42.2)
LOGAN: We don't have the body here specifically for Vessel Opportunity or BP unfortunately this morning. If I can get you with Marian back at the back to fill out the question card, we will get that information for you.

DONNA: Okay, thank you very much.

(0:04:55.8)
LOGAN: Because we don't want to take a stand at something that we don't know the answer for.

DONNA: Thank you.

(0:05:00.7)
LOGAN: Next Dave. Have you want to make mention we do have Peter Nguyen here so if anybody would like a translational skills, he's the man to go to.

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AUDIENCE2: Hi, my question is I was going to write it down. In general, pertaining to the general public that I see on the beaches and fishing, consumers that are buying seafood right now, the commercial fisherman which is my husband, seafood business that sell the seafood daily, and the health issues that can come about from this disaster oil spill, what are we suppose to be doing right now? When I see children swimming, elderly and young fishing off the Coleman Avenue Pier. My husband is still going out and realized that the smell and picking up crab traps, there was a sheen in the water right by Bayou Caddy. He got dizzy. Him and my grandson got headaches. Why is this still happening? This is in general. I'm shocked that someone who has authority has not mandated more concern for just the common sense approach to what can come about with all this. Does it not question in your mind when you see children in the beach waters in Bay St. Louis and that Bayou Caddy and I'm sure all the way down the coastline. You got that supposedly the cleanup people. Then, and FDA that's supposed to be concerned for the consumer, is this seafood safe to eat? I don't understand it. It's like a bigger picture and nobody's addressing to me the general public's concern.

(0:07:09.2)
LOGAN: It's kind of a two-pronged question. You got one in the seafood safety and consumers and the other is actual human health physical contact in the waters as well and why.

AUDIENCE2: It's like everything is continuing slowly but I don't see red flags going up and concerns. I thought by now the beaches would be no swimming. When I was a little girl in Lake Pontchartrain, I live in New Orleans, and Lake Pontchartrain got polluted. There wasn't oil spill. There wasn't dispersant. It was polluted. You couldn't go swimming out there. You got oil and dispersements out there that are highly toxin, and the public is out there swimming and fishing and eating this? You had teenagers on the pier saying, I can't wait to go home and fry up my little croakers they were catching. My heart went out wondering.

(0:08:02.3)
LOGAN: Absolutely, thank you very much. Two-pronged question, one about seafood safety if anyone was to handle that and then the human health issue as well.

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BOB: I can address the seafood safety issue. NOAA and FDA and EPA have been developing a protocol for the reopening of fisheries across the Gulf of Mexico. We're hoping and we're working very

closely with the states so that they can adopt the same type of protocol. Basically the sequence goes like this. Once an area has a visible presence of oil, that would be oil sheen or submersed oil, those fisheries are closed. NOAA puts a buffer zone around those areas where it has been identified. Once that evidence of oil is gone after it has come over fishery that was closed and it was closed. Once the evidence of the oil on the water or on top of the water is gone, then testing begins. NOAA and EPA and FDA will go in and start sampling the seafood from that area. It will go to a series of tests. The first test is a sensory and it's a sensory assessment because petroleum contaminated seafood has a definite odor to it. We have trained assessors to examine the fish, the different types of seafood coming out of those waters. Once if they detect the petroleum taint, then those waters remain closed and the fisheries closed. When the taint is gone, then the follow up analysis is instrumental chemical analysis for the detection of the specific subset of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, which are components of the oil. Those are the compounds that we're concerned about for the public. Those analyses will also be conducted after the sensory assessment. If both of those steps show that there is no detectable taint, no detectable PAHs in the seafoods that are being sampled and analyzed, then the fisheries will be considered for reopening by NOAA. NOAA will reopen the fisheries in consultation with FDA and EPA. That it handles the seafood safety, issue but the waters are generally closed by NOAA. NOAA has the authority and should speak to this. It has the authority to close fisheries and reopen fisheries, and they do that on the basis of where the oil is, where they expect it to be in federal waters, and then the states have control within that 3-mile limit.

PANELIST: First, I want to thank you for coming. It's a very good question. I appreciate you asking it. I want to speak to a few things. I want to let you know some of the things that we've been doing on a state level to try to address some of your concern about seafood safety because it's very important for us also. I can assure you. We have been for well over a month doing flights over the Mississippi Sound and adjacent waters. If we see any discolored water or anything that looks suspicious, we have a boat that usually goes out under the plane or we'll send a boat up to the coordinates and

we'll take samples and get those analyzed. Barring what I said earlier on the area that we've closed on the eastern side of the state, we had some knowledge of oil and we took action. We'll continue to do that. Of those flight operations that we've been running for well over a month, we have not had anything come back with any problems from our samples. As far as oil being detected in those samples. So those samples have come back clean. We've also started doing what I call a pro-active water sampling program. We started this about three weeks ago. We sample top and bottom water samples on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays in all of the passes. We sample west of Cat Island and between Cat and Ship, Ship and Horn, Horn and Petit Bois and East of Petit Bois. Those samples have been run, like I say, about three weeks now and those samples have come back fine every time they've been run. That's another thing we've been doing. I don't appease read the paper this morning or seen in the news but did decide we're going to open up shrimp season at 6:00 AM on Thursday. We wanted to make sure and go do some extra sampling before we open up shrimp season to make sure that we could answer questions such as yours about seafood safety. We took some shrimp tissue samples last Wednesday, and we sent them up to the state chemical lab to have them analyzed. We got the results of those yesterday. They came back fine. We have been doing several things. We took some fish samples yesterday that are being sent off today to be analyzed. It takes about seven days to run these tests. You can't just send them off and get results the next day. These tests are complicated. It takes time to run them. Fish tissue samples are being sent off today. It's just a precautionary thing that we're doing. We're planning on doing some oyster tissue sampling and we're going to continue this type of sampling through the summer to keep on top of this type of thing. In complaints that have come in to the DMR, the Incident Command, there's certain teams and scant teams that they send off to investigate complaints. We've had a number of complaints to different thing on the water. We send people out to check them. We take water samples to see if there's anything to be concerned with. We have not had anything that we needed to take an action on prior to yesterday. With that, thank you again for your question.

BUCK: Actually, most of the seafood safety questions are already answered. As far as the closures go, every morning at about 7:00 we get the projected oil spill trajectories and looking at for what's happening for 24, 48 and 72 hours. There's also an area that's

projected around the area basically a buffer zone just like the gentleman said and what we tried to do is we make a decision by 9:00 every morning whether we're going to change the boundaries or not. If they are changed then we post the new dimensions for the closure that's happened yesterday for example that pushed the closure south actually all the way to the US-Cuban border. Water EEZ border and push a little bit east towards, off of Florida. Those are then posted on the NOAA fisheries southeast regional office website by noon and then go up those changes go into effect at 6:00 PM that evening. Those affect the federal waters. That's from off of Mississippi here is three miles outside of the island so that's a little bit different. I just want to make sure that the folks understand that difference. But I will say that every week we have a meeting with all the state directors and also the Fisheries Commission to make sure that we're staying in really constant contact. I have a meeting with Dr. Bill Walker after this, as a matter of fact. Just to make sure that whatever we're doing is in sync with what the states are doing because we realize this is, federal or state, the oil doesn't really know which one is which and so we want to make sure that those are harmonized.

CYNTHIA: Good morning. I have a product that is 100% natural biodegradable. It's approved by the EP,A and I can't seem to get this product at anybody's hand. I have a jump drive with the videos of what it can do. It will encapsulate that oil that is out there in that water. It would take the all out of the sand and dirt that is on our beaches, but I can't seem to get past the first person at every stop to get the information into the right hands. Whose hands do I need to put this information into? And when can I talk to that person?

DICKEY: The Coast Guard National Incident Command Center in Fort McNair, Maryland has a program for just these sorts of ideas. They area assimilating and collecting ideas from the public on ways to counter the oil spill. I would recommend that you get and go on to the Coast Guard website. They're bound to have a link there that says that is soliciting this type of information. It's an active program. They've got a committee doing just this. Taking ideas from the public on ways that they can counteract the oil spill.

CYNTHIA: It's just like the BP office that gives you a number to call and file and every other office that I have been to. It is a product, and it does work. If everybody keep telling you this number and post your information on this, and nobody actually see the information

and what it can do, then I'm just spinning my wheels here. You have water out there that has oil in it. You have aquatic life that is suffering because of the oil, and I have a product that actually works. Just going from person to person...

DICKEY: I know but we don't have a Coast Guard representative here but they do have a program. I was at the National Incident Command Center in DC. And, I know for a fact that they got this program. I'm not exactly sure where you signed up or you can e-mail them or you can send. They do get these videos. I know that they're looking at these. They've got a subcommittee to look at these things. That's all I can tell you so get in touch with the Coast Guard and ask about the committee that they have to gather to deal with this or assimilate this kind of information.

CYNTHIA: Any person in particular?

DICKEY: No, I don't have a name. Fill one of those and direct it to the Coast Guard. They can probably respond.

CYNTHIA: Thank you.

(0:18:44.3)
LOGAN: Yes, he had to leave early. If we can get you really to fill that out? Cut the information on one side and you question again on the other. We'll see that that gets answered to the best of our ability. Next up, Dave.

BILL: That's me. My question has to do with basically the non-pelagic species that we have use. Speckled trout, flounder crabs, things like that. If this is the catastrophe that it appears, it's going to end up being...are there any steps being taken or any plans being made to provide restocking abilities for the non-pelagic species that won't simply move back in once the water is cleaned up so that we can replenish our supplies of seafood and crabs and shrimp and whatnot rather than waiting for nature to take its course over a long period of time.

(0:19:43.8)
LOGAN: Anybody want to handle that one? State restocking efforts?

JIM: Dave may have a comment on this. I don't know of any plan to restock as a result of spill. Of course there are restocking efforts

under way at this point for trout and perhaps few other species down the road that are in place already. Some of that work's being done on our laboratory. I haven't heard any discussion though that would tie that into the impacts from the spill. It's an interesting thought, interesting idea because, yes, that would be of some concern. Obviously a major concern if that happens and how to address it perhaps some of that could be address through some restocking efforts. None of that is being conducted. It's time with the spill being mind because it has been under way for a number of years already. That's for the fish and I heard it may have some words on crabs.

HARRIET: Most of you know, we've been able to successfully culture blue crabs from egg to adult. Not with the idea of restocking the Gulf, but with the idea of fishery development with soft crabs and bait crabs. I agree with Jim, we've had no federal information or directive or state that has asked, considers stock enhancement or restocking following the clean-up efforts. We certainly have the potential to produce post-larvae and early juveniles of blue crabs and fish species. So, we do have the ability; we just have not been pushed in that direction.

BUCK: From a federal perspective, same thing. I think while we're out there take biological samples so we're monitoring what the impacts are as time goes on. Before the spill, during the spill. I think I don't have a specific answer to that exact question. I suspect that there won't be anything that's off the table when it comes to dealing with the impacts of what happens. Right now, it'd be a little preliminary, but I'm sure that that's an interesting perspective I haven't really thought of.

PANELIST: I don't have a whole to add except that I would say that there's been a lot of capacity added to these types of programs in the last few years. We have acquired the Lyman Fish Hatchery and it's now part of the Department of Marine Resources and we partner with GCRL and they've got some new capabilities out at Cedar Point. If those types of programs are needed, there's a lot more capacity than there was just a few years back. That's a good point. Thank you for your question.

(0:23:03.4)
LOGAN: Thank you. Can you state your name and who you're with please?

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TOM: My name is Tom Brosnin. I'm with NOAA the Office of Response and Restoration. For perspective under the Oil Pollution Act, the responsible party, in this case BP, is responsible not only to clean up what was spilled but also to restore what's been injured. That restoration includes natural resources like shrimp. Also the lost use of those resources by people. A natural resource damage assessment is being conducted currently to determine exactly what has being injured and how much of it is being injured and what restoration will be required to restore those resources. That is being led by trustee agencies including NOAA and the Department of Interior as well as state agencies in Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana and Florida currently. If you want any information about that process, I'll be happy to talk to you about it after. My name is Tom Brosnin and I'm with NOAA. Thank you.

You had to come up here, okay?

PANELIST: Also I want you to know that Auburn University Marine in Mobile has a laboratory that does raise oysters also. That's another; the technology is there for that.

(0:24:24.3)
LOGAN: We got one more coming on this last question.

HARRIET: I just say that we really are poised in terms of aquaculture facilities to be able to address some of those issues. We're expanding the blue crab hatchery, and I know that the Lyman Fish Hatchery has the capability to do expand. I'm not sure how many acres they have, but we're in good shape in terms of aquaculture.

JIM: Just as a follow-up to that, of course, at the Gulf Coast Research Lab and at the Cedar Point facility. We are in the process, as I mentioned earlier, of spawning and rearing speckled trout. A red snapper program is now under way. Soon, we'll begin a tripletail aquaculture program, as well as cobia**.** We're expanding those programs and learning to spawn and rear fish that are important to all of us. And, so as Harriet says, we do to have that capability. We're expanding that capability to address this issue if necessary.

(0:25:32.6)
LOGAN: Come on up.

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DON: My name is Don Abrams. I'm from Ocean Springs. My background is in engineering data acquisition and testing. Looking at the sampling and testing process that I'm seeing in this oil spill, a number of red flags keep raising. I was up at 3:00 this morning reading the health and safety information on the Corexit 9500. My bottom line question is how can I have more confidence that the testing and sampling are being done in an objective scientific way without BP bias in them. I'll mention a few things that cause particular concern. I understand the majority of the samples are being tested by B&B labs in College Station, Texas, which has very close ties to the petroleum industry who counts BP as one of their clients. There is no way that those tests are going to be done in a completely scientific and unbiased manner if they're being done by a petroleum industry dominated lab. Couple of other things I've heard an EPA rep say on two occasions that they had requested BP to take water samples for them. This morning the EPA representative in the big session said that they had directed BP to make a long-term assessment of the effects of the Corexit dispersant in the Gulf. Based on what Exxon did after the Valdez incident and based on common sense we cannot expect an objective, realistic answer from a company whose CEO this morning is still denying the fact that these undersea plumes exist. I'm hearing that FDA's trigger for testing is based on the visible evidence of oil. Well, in the state's response program, the oil snuck up on us on Petit Bois; I've not heard anything about dispersant testing. I've not heard anything about dispersants and the necropsies of the sea turtles, marine mammals. And I didn't hear anything from DMR about dispersant testing for food safety. These chemicals have not been used on these spaces before, and I'm concerned about whether a reasonable testing protocol exists and whether we can expect to get those results properly.

(0:28:03.9)
LOGAN: Thank you. Anybody?

BUCK: I can't answer at least all the questions but let me just at least address the ones that I'm somewhat familiar with. The NOAA vessels have been out collecting both water samples and tissues from fish, as well as from the necropsies from sea turtles and the bottlenose dolphin have been stranded. The Pascagoula lab is to set up a system for testing not only for the oil but as well as some of the dispersants. We have samples of the dispersant that they've been using to determine what are the markers that they can use to

determine if the tissues have been tainted with the dispersant as well as with the oil. Also we have a very strong expertise and chemical analysis of tissue in our Northwest Science Center, which is located in Seattle, Washington. They have been involved right from the first day when we're starting the sampling the day after the day of the spill when we went out and collected both fish and invertebrate samples and to set basically a baseline of what the chemical composition was like in the water as well as in the fish tissues. None of our samples have gone, as far as I know, to the best of my knowledge, from the NOAA standpoint, have gone through the BP process. All the samples have been analyzed by our own scientists both locally and in Seattle. Looking at both the oil and the dispersant. The gentleman talking about the FDA and the smell test is of the, best you can probably address that one. That part of the question.

BOB: There are a number of federal laboratories involved. The FDA has three regional laboratories in Atlanta, Jefferson, Arkansas, and Kansas City that are prepared to test seafood samples using the NOAA PAH methodology before seafood areas that have been closed to harvest have reopened. It's all in coordination with NOAA and their opening and closing process. Those sample laboratories will be doing the chemical analysis. The sensory analysis is going to be done here pretty much on site. NOAA and FDA sent their expert sensory assessors up to Gloucester, Massachusetts, laboratory about two weeks ago to begin training on this particular oil spiked into seafood matrices so that they can familiarize themselves with the taint, with the odor of this oil in seafood products. They've done that. They're coming down. They're going to be testing state personnel to become trainee sensory assessors so that we can spread this ability to eliminate product that is obviously tainted and will be kept off the market and out of harvest. To prevent harvest from most tainted waters. There's a definite plan in place with NOAA and FDA bringing and training sensory assessors for the initial analysis, and we've got our regulatory laboratory set up to run the chemical analysis. We're not contracting this out. We're there to help primarily with the federal waters but we're also offering these services to the states as well. In regards to your concerns over the Corexit dispersants, the FDA position on the dispersants is that we do not believe at this time that they are a seafood safety concern. I'm not talking environmental; I'm only talking as far as seafood safety. The reason they are not a seafood safety concern is that these

dispersants are composed of four chemical components. Two of those chemical components or one of the chemical components is propylene glycol. It's a generally recognized as safe food additive. The other one, 2-Butoxyethanol, is also found in a good number of consumer products from lip gloss all the way to insecticides is to help disperse it. But it's in cosmetic products as well. A third component is petroleum distillates. The light hydrolize fraction. These are like mineral spirits. They're also used in a variety of consumer products from cosmetics to the things that we use for furniture polishes and so forth but in very trace quantities. The fourth component is a proprietary compound. They have divulge the identity of that proprietary chemical to CDC and FDA and we've examined it. All four of these compounds also have very, very low what we call bioconcentration factors. BCFs. The BCF number gives you an indication of the ability of a particular chemical compound to partition across gills of a fish into their bodies and thereby be accumulated. The scale runs from zero to upwards to 10,000. Two of these compounds have a BCF of three. A third one has a BCF of 10, that would be the proprietary compound, and the petroleum distillates have a BCF of about 80-90. They're all under 100 and is generally accepted across the scientific community that if you have a BCF below 100, it's not much of a public health concern. Having said that, a lot of these are calculated values. Some of them are experimentally derived. FDA and NOAA do have plans to conduct sensory assessments for these things for the dispersants because they do have an odor in concentrated form. I will back up just a second. All of these components like propylene glycol, 2-Butoxyethanol in concentrated form, yes, they are a contact, inhalation and ingestion hazard. In concentrated form. But when you diluted out, as it's being done in the Gulf of Mexico massively. One square mile, one foot deep is 210 million gallons of water alone. These are massively diluted to begin with. We understand the concern and we're looking at that. We've incorporated that into our reopening protocol. It will be tested for both at the sensory level and as Buck indicated, the NOAA, the National Marine Fisheries Northwest Laboratory, they are currently conducting studies on the ability of these dispersants to get into fish. By chemical analyzed considering the chemical characteristics alone, we don't expect that to be the case because of the one the dilution effects is going to be in parts per million range, and they chemically are not conducive to partitioning across membranes.

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DON: I do feel somewhat better. I'd like to understand a little bit more where the information came that all these samples are being handled by B&B Labs. I'm still concerned that you seemed to be focusing on the petroleum side of the food safety issue. You said you're going to do sensory testing for the Corexit compounds.

BOB: At the same time, we're doing because right now the Corexit is comingled with the petroleum. When you sprayed it on. The reason they've put those things on there is to break down the oil into small droplets that bacteria, more surface area, the marine bacteria that eat the petroleum products, which are natural fossilized remains of plants and animals, remember. The bacteria consume that and break it down. Corexit just makes it more easier for the bacteria to have more surface area to attach to it. It's a detergent. That's what these things are. They're basically detergents and mild solvents that help break down the surface and put into the water column. Again, our EPA representative indicated it's a choice between the lesser two evils and you have to balance the risk benefit. They're constantly doing that by testing not only what's happening at depth and at the surface with the ecology with the phytoplankton and the zooplankton and so forth but also determining how effective it is in eliminating the oil from the water column as well as from the surface in breaking it down.

DON: Just one quick final thing. I do feel better characterizing these things as mild detergents or...

BOB: I didn't say they're mild. In concentrated form, they are those hazards I spoke of but in dilute form...

DON: The home country of BP has judged them to be unacceptable for using coastal waters in dilute form and we got a million gallons of them that have been dumped into the Gulf and I understand it was a choice as the primary way to deal with it. Now we have a choice of whether to eat seafood, and I'm still concerned.

BOB: In response to that, I understand that completely and we're not negating this. We are going to be looking into it. We do have plans to address it in the event that it does get in to our seafood. Remember that dispersants are being used; I don't think the Coast Guard is allowed it into coastal waters yet within the three-mile limit. It's out in 5,000 feet of water at the present time. Again. I'm sure that they're calculating all this in the dilution factors involved.

We're talking billions of gallons of seawater that this is being dispersed into. We're talking a little bit less than 1 million gallons of dispersant at present. You can Google for example aprevious historical spills that have happened in the past for example, the Ixtoc in 1979 off of Veracruz, Mexico. It was a much bigger spill than this. It was 150 million gallons of spill over nine months, and they used quite a bit more dispersant from what I've read than what we've used up to this point. This is the biggest spill in U.S. history but bigger spills have occurred and they used similar products in trying to deal with it. I'm not negating this at all. This is a huge event all at once. My point being is that the dilution factors are huge, and it's the lesser of two evils having to make that choice. Again, to reassure that NOAA, EPA and FDA are aware of it. We're looking into it thoroughly. We are doing the necessary due diligence to make sure that this dispersants nor the oil are become a safety issue in seafoods.

BARBARA: Hi, it’s Day 44. There are a lot of good people doing a lot of great work on this horrendous disaster. We're getting a lot of information on testing and monitoring and the plumes that are being found and the heartbreaking numbers of dead animals and sea life and the heartbreaking numbers of fishermen and fisherwomen who are out of work. What we're not getting are specific details of how much oil is being recovered and how it is being recovered and that's the key to the solution is to get it up and out and take it where? We don't even know where it's being taken. How many gallons of oil were recovered yesterday?

(0:40:19.7)
LOGAN: Okay, so this goes to the point of oil recovery. Anybody?

BOB: The Coast Guard keeps track of those statistics. Every day they put out a brief that I believe that they post on their website. This information is available. It may not be getting being widely disseminated, but I can't tell you why. I'm in seafood safety myself. I have been to the National Incident Command Center in Washington, and I see the reports every day and they give specific numbers every day. How much skimming has recovered? How much has been recovered since day one. All of those statistics are available. This is supposed to be transparently available on the U.S. Coast Guard website. I think you can find the information. It may not be reported and allowed to...

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BARBARA: It's very difficult to find. The last information I got if from a BP official who told me five days ago, he proudly said, and we have a recording of it, 3,463 gallons the day before, which is nothing.

BOB: That wouldn't be much but again, the Coast Guard is the best source of information that you could earth. The best place to go to find that kind of information. If you can't find it on the website then perhaps you can call in and ask for that type of information.

BARBARA: All right. My follow-up if I might?

(0:41:39.6)
LOGAN: Yes, go ahead.

BARBARA: There are about 200 vacuum trucks staged on Canal Road in Gulfport. They've been moved around. They were at one location in Woolmarket then they were moved to another location in Woolmarket then to Debuys Road. Now they're staged over at Canal Road. It's a form of recovery vacuum trucks, vacuum units, rolls-off and skids. These are sitting in staging areas. Many, for more than three weeks now, and they would help the recovery effort. We've been told over and over again, everything is being done. We're doing everything possible. Is anyone on this panel happy with the amount of oil that's being recovered on a daily basis and that all the tools that can possibly be used are being used? Is there anyone here happy with that?

LOGAN: I don't think anybody would (Chuckle) agree with that. I don't think anybody is happy with that. What I am going to have you do because we don't have a representative from Coast Guard here. I want to have you fill out one of those question cards and she'll help you with that. We'll get that...

BARBARA: Thank you for the work you're doing.

(0:42:47.7)
LOGAN: Next up, Dave.

LEO: Hi everyone. Thank you for joining us this morning. My name is Leo Skamato. I used to be a business counselor for the Gulf Fishermen around Biloxi, New Orleans. You talked about the sensory analysis, the extensive testing that's going to be with the seafood safety issue. My question is for the front end of that

process, I've heard from a lot of fishermen. From two fishermen who have gone out there and caught some shrimp, and they've seen oil and then they have to dump the shrimp out. What is the official protocol for a shrimper or any harvester out there who visibly sees oil in their catch?

(0:43:37.7)
LOGAN: Okay. Seafood safety?

BOB: Again, the sequence of actions to be taken. NOAA is out there. EPA is out there. Coast Guard is out there. FDA, unfortunately we don't have people on the water on the same boots on the ground, so to speak, or on the water. Anywhere there is a visible sheen, that area supposed to be closed. That's what NOAA does. That's what EPA does. In concern with the EPA. I think the states follow suit on that. As far as submerged oil is concerned. It's very difficult to detect but I know that NOAA and EPA to a certain extent and the states are out there taking water samples. Trying to identify where the submerged plumes are because you have a surface slick but then you have subsurface currents that are blowing or moving the dispersed oil away from that surface slick. That's why they're doing that sampling in the buffer zone. That's what they're calling. It's a five-mile zone around the surface leak that they're probing to identify where the submerged oil might be going. If the fishermen encounter oil on the water or if they encounter oil on seafood that they're harvesting from the water, they it would be great if they would report it to NOAA and their state departments of environmental protection so that they can get their people out there to extend the closure as necessary to prevent harvest from those areas where contamination occurs. That's the process, and I believe the states follow something very similar.

BUCK: I just want to add to that point. No area in the federal waters is reopened until the water samples and tissue samples from animals that are caught in that area have proven to be clear of any contaminants. As far as if I could ask a question do you know where these folks were or were they in state waters or federal waters or...

LEO: I think it was an issue where they were in the federal waters and they didn't know it was closed. I think that would be between Chandeleur and Brenton.

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BUCK: That is the initial that I've heard up there. There has been some confusion of over the coordinates and such and so. NOAA is working with the Marine Weather that forecast and putting up the closures on the marine weather system. We are looking at trying to make sure that we're getting as much broadcast as to where the changes are. Unfortunately, when they think they're changing sometimes on a daily basis, we try not to make changes unless actually have to. Obviously we want to keep as much as right now I think 31% of the EEZ is closed is closed to because of the oil spill. But that said, we're not going to, we're going to err on the side of being cautious. Cautious and not the well, this kind of looks like okay. Just like the gentleman said there is a safety boundary that we incorporate into those closure projections everyday. As far as finding oil in an area that is open then the protocol would be we need to contact the Coast Guard and we would or the state fisheries and we would of course immediately put that into our formulation of where we need to close it. Because there situation, again I understand that were situation a couple of weeks ago where there's some oil found in a shrimp catch that it went from a sample of that oil turned out that it wasn't part of the BP, this particular spill. Those are all part of it. Certainly though, we want to err on the precautionary side of things.

LEO: I get perception that they visibly see it and then if they are concerned they would just go ahead report the to the state DMR.

BUCK: The state or and Coast Guard.

PANELIST: Just going to give you a phone number, Leo, that you could call.

LEO: Okay, great.

PANELIST: I actually don't know if I got it my phone or not but if you hang around after this I'll get Marine Patrol's dispatch number. I'll give that to you so you can pass it on to the fishermen. They're somebody manning on that 24-hours a day. If it's during the work week, they could call 374-5000 and we got somebody on the phone during the work week but I'll get you a number right after this.

LEO: Okay, thank you.

(0:48:25.5)

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LOGAN: Leo, I want you to go ahead and fill out that card because that's going to be interesting information for a larger group than this. Dave, who's next?

JOHN: Yes. John Slater, Pascagoula. I guess my question would be is let's say we're a month from now and I've got an idea what we're going to be looking at. What areas are you planning on protecting and some of the methodologies of how are you going to do that? Your river mouths, you got your estuaries. I know that's what is going to come down to this, what areas can we save?

PANELIST: I'll try to start on that. Somebody else might want to jump in also. Early on in this process, days after this incident occur. We started making plans on how are we going to structure doing protection systems in the Mississippi sound. Decision was made as we're going to try to protect the nursery habitat areas. The marshy areas, the mouth of the bays, the bayous and the places where we would expect a juvenile shrimp, fish, crabs and oysters. It's the most important for them in their young life stages. That's what focused on is trying to protect those habitats, and if you've noticed that's where we'd work most of the booming activity has occurred. We're also trying to protect areas like on the points of the islands that are key nesting habitats for a lot of the birds that are on the islands. That's the approach we took from the beginning. That's where we're folks in our efforts. I hope that answers your question.

JOHN: I guess if you could just maybe dwell on some of the methodologies here. You're going to be using as far as the cleanup proper. Maybe your beaches. Any areas that are going to get in to that you didn't want to get in to.

PANELIST: I do know that if it gets in they are contractors on standby to immediately come in and start working on that. For instance, earlier I said, I told you that, we had some oil get on the South side of Petit Bois and we had a strip of it yet around the west tip and proceeded to the Northeast for about two and half miles. There were skimming boats out there yesterday. Skimming the stuff that was in the water. There were people lined up to be on the beaches getting the oil off of the beaches this morning. That was what I was told yesterday. There are teams in place who are standing by. They're ready to go and handle whatever situations that comes up. So there are contingency plans.

Thank you.

H.W.: My name is H. W. Slater. I'm going to be a lot, going into greater detail than my brothers did. We've got approximately 80 miles from Alabama all the way to Lake Borne. We've got 42 miles of open water between that is not barrier islands**.** Why don't we have something in between those islands to stop the oil from ever getting to shore? It's too late once it gets ashore. I don't care what anybody says. The seas build up. They come from the wrong direction. They go over the booms. That's just the way it works. Everybody knows it works that way. Why did we not try to protect. Alabama did it. They don't have as much area to do, but it's the same concept. I don't understand why we didn't do that. We're 44 days into this. We had all the time in the world to do it. I'm trying to keep calm. I'm very unhappy (Chuckle) with what's happened. I'm talking about the state of Mississippi what they have done. They are our basis. Period.

(0:52:20.5)
LOGAN: Two questions response. First part is the oil spill. We have anybody? This is kind of a two-pronged, different federal and state. Can you handle that?

PANELIST: I understand the emotional part of it because this has been, I think that's one of the hardest things is there's so much uncertainty dealing with this event for all of us. Folks like yourself and us up here in the panel and our coworkers. And all that’s frustrating and it gets you emotional and it's hard to contain. I felt that so many times so I'm right with you. In my job I have not been directly involved in the booming activity so much because I'm the office director of Marine Fisheries. I'm going to try to answer your question, but I may have to get back with you and get you a better answer.

H.W.: Okay, Sir.

PANELIST: I do understand that in this island passes if we try to boom those areas off, that's a high energy area and booms are only effective to certain degree depending on the wave and the current that goes through there. I believe that is one of the concerns is that there’s such a high energy area. I don't know if they would be effective.

H.W.: Alabama’s done it.

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PANELIST: Boom in between the passes of their Barrier islands?

H.W.: Yes. Dauphin Island, they boomed all of that**.** I do understand what you're talking about, high energy. Wave action going bye bye. If the currents are quicken enough it's still going bye bye. We're not even protecting that.

PANELIST: We have a person that's over at the Incident Command. Actually there's a person from the EQ and person from the MR. Several of them rotate through. Their working on this booming activity and I would be glad to ask that question to them. I don't know that I can give a better answer than I have so far but I'd be glad to answer to answer that question.

H.W.: Thank you very much for trying to answer. That's a bad question. (Chuckle)

(0:54:20.8)
LOGAN: Can we get you to fill out one of these cards here. That is going to be beneficial to other folk as well. Next up, Dave?

AUDIENCE: Thank you all for being here. I appreciate you all answering all of our questions. First I had a remark about the testing and how you said that you all want to err on caution. You said that you all test something and you don't get the results until seven days later. It would seem like the product's already out at market, and it's seven days too late. No one getting the results. The next thing that I wanted to say was seems like were getting a lot of optimistic remarks from our governor and BP and all these other politicians trying to sugarcoat what's going on. Realistically, what are going to be the long-term effects as far as you all know? We're 20 years after Exxon Valdez and they still have issues up there with the sea life. What do you all foresee here; worst case scenario, best case scenario without sugarcoating it.

(0:55:36.2)
LOGAN: If you're looking for a long term impacts, which obviously is a difficult question. Anybody here?

BUCK: I don't know if anybody really knows to answer that question to be honest with you. I think the point is NOAA, EPA, FDA as far as seafood safety. The first part of your question. The seven day

action I think was how long it takes to get the test to reopen something not to close something. I think it actually maybe more quicker for some of the federal tests that we're doing, but we'll close area as soon as oil is projected to be in an area. We won't open an area back until the oil is gone and the tissue samples taken from that area that no longer has oil have shown to be clean then we'll reopen federal waters. The whole idea of taking that precautionary approach is to make sure that we don't have any tainted seafood get into the market. I just want to make sure clear on that. In regards to the long-term impact, I don't think we have any real clear idea of what; of course it depends on how soon that they can get this thing closed. Where the oil goes. Right now it would be a kind of a shot in the dark. I don't think anybody really could even begin to address other than to say that the sampling to determine what is happening will go on and will continue to go on even after the oil has been stopped. As long as there is oil out floating around, there's going to be sampling by NOAA vessels, by university vessels, by the states and to make sure that the seafood, not only the seafood by the whole ecosystem. Because we're looking at an ecosystem impact here. That the ecosystem itself and how it responds. We have a pretty good idea of where things were before the spill. We're taking all kinds of different biological samples, chemical samples; fish and oceanography samples do throughout this whole period and will continue to do it long afterwards so that we can at least track what's going on. I know that is probably not a very satisfactory answer but the fact is that we do have the best scientists that are out there in our respective agencies in all state, federal and private universities state universities.

HARRIET: Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana are very lucky in that in the late 1960s we did a study called the Gulf of Mexico Estuarine Inventory and Study where we all sampled with multiple gears using the same techniques and the same analytical protocols. We know what we had in the 60s. From that program we developed a long-term assessment monitoring program in each of those three states. We have a 37-year database on what's in our estuaries and nearshore waters. We just completed an analysis of that 37 years worth of data from Mississippi and Alabama, and we are currently finishing a Louisiana. We have short term concerns. I do, I work primarily with the vertebrate fisheries. We could have short-term impacts and the fishery could recover. We could have very long-term impacts. We've been in about a 10-year-period in all of the

Northern Gulf states looking at decreased number of juveniles in our fishery independent samples. Primarily due to whether we've been in a drought situation. We've looked at our 37-year database and global climate features. We think it's climate related.
We think it is climate related to how climate influences habitat in river discharge. We are in a time period where we have depressed populations of juveniles. The oil is certainly going to exacerbate that because it is certainly going to affect the habitat for these species. With blue crabs, the spring recruitment is offshore. Most estuarine-dependent species have an offshore larval stage. They move in to the estuary and the estuary forms the nursery ground for these species. Even though if we had never seen oil in Mississippi waters, there is a great concern that the larvae of fish, shrimp, and crabs would be impacted by the spill because there is a large offshore larval pool. That is one concern. The shrimp luckily were already here before the oil spill so they were on the nursery grounds. For blue crabs, the late summer, early fall is our peak spawning period. We would see larvae out over the shelf during that period, and it may not look good for them. Whether or not... of course estuarine animals are very resilient. They can recover, but it is just the length of time that these animals have decreased spawning. We have some information that the dispersant may cause reproductive problems, hormonal problems in fish over time. A decreased reproductive capacity combined with low recruitment and damaged habitat. That is the worst case, but again, I agree with Buck**.** We really do not know. This has never happened to us. It is a learning curve. We are monitoring and we have the information that we can really assess damage.

(1:02:21.1)
JIM: No, I cannot add to that.

HARRIET: I am sorry. I was so long winded.

(1:02:35.7)
LOGAN: Yes. Okay.

BOB: With regard to your concern about tainted fish being on the market or unable to be on the market. We do not think that is the case. The waters and fisheries that have been affected by the spill including the buffer zone have been closed, and FDA does not have any reason to suspect that we have tainted product on the market. Regardless, however. There is a surveillance sampling plan in

place that is going to be starting up very soon. FDA is going to be running these analyses on market samples at the dock so that we can trace it back to wherever it was captured should we find anything tainted. We do not have any reason to suspect that there is tainted product on the market at this time. In terms of long-term effects, I would encourage you to look into the history of oil spills from Exxon Valdez forward to the North Cape spill in Rhode Island. The Julian in Maine. The Carissa in California or Oregon. There have a number of spills. Follow-up studies have been on those spills. That should give you a good indication of how resilient nature can be or how vulnerable she can be in certain respects. There have been fisheries effects, but studies like this will give you a much better idea of what we might be able to expect. Given that this is the largest one in U.S. history, about four times what Exxon Valdez was. These other ones are smaller as well, but it should give you some indication of what we might expect. There are a lot of lessons learned from those previous spills and a lot of those lessons learned are being applied today. NOAA has a number of excellent scientists that put out reviews. Dr. Yender being one them on management of oil spills, of food seafood safety following an oil spill, but they talk about then give charts and graphs about what happened to the fisheries. How long they were out of commission. How soon they came back. What they analyze for and so forth. These things are available on the internet. All you have to do is Google them. You'll learn quite a bit. In terms of time for analysis, I concur with Buck. Seven days is at the far end of the extreme. Sensory assessment is going to be a matter. As soon as it hits the laboratory, it is going to be assessed within a day or two, but the chemical analysis, that's the hard one. That is the longer one. Most of the sample is going to be accepted or rejected at the sensory end of the equation. We are trying to streamline that entire process and at the same time, we have other methods with promising technologies that would speed it up even faster. That we are assessing as we speak.

MATTHEW: I am Matthew Cuevas. I'm with Gulf Coast Prestress out of Pass Christian, Mississippi. The question we have, if the oil reaches ICW, Bayou Portage, Bay St. Louis, will it be closed off and will you have something set up similar to New Orleans as far as cleaning our boats and barges and other boats and barges coming in.

(1:06:00.2)

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LOGAN: That it goes to waterway traffic in and out. Everybody can to that but the Coast Guard is not here. This can be a Coast Guard question. I will let you fill out a card because that is a good one. We need to know that information.

DONNA: Okay I am back. I live on the bayou off of Back Bay Biloxi. This is my question, we are coming in to hurricane speeds. What is our game plan to protect our bayous, our marshes and our private homes when the hurricane brings in the flood waters. During Katrina we had 25 feet of water in my neighborhood personally. The oil is going to come in my home. Who is going to be responsible for my clean up of my home, of my bayou that I live on, and our Back Bay of Biloxi?

(1:06:55.6)
LOGAN: Questions regarding hurricane effects and oil.

DONNA: How are we going to protect it before hand?

(1:07:03.8)
LOGAN: I will let you fill out a card on that as well. Sorry about that. There is a lot of speculation about that.

AUDIENCE3: Hi, here is another question I have. The Corexit, the dispersant that EPA asked them not to use and then to use moderately. They were breathing it and inhaling it, and touching it is a no-no. It is being sprayed in out waters and if I understand this correctly. I am up here right now because my gut feeling when I walk out of here that I thought was going to go home today feeling somewhat better. Not at this point and may be everybody else isn't either. Public health I though would be the first and foremost. Yes, we got a disaster. Yes, we got to clean it up. Yes, there is thousands of things to do. I am concerned still about public health. When I hear that it is a dispersement. It is a detergent. At this point, the dispersement is not a safety factor to food consumption. Am I hearing that correctly? It is true, it's not a factor for safety.

(1:08:33.8)
LOGAN: Somebody give me the microphone so that it can be recorded as well.

AUDIENCE3: And yet the fish, turtles, crabs are being found dead and washed up.

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(1:08:46.8)
BOB: If I can respond to you, it is a good question. In 1995, the National Research Council addressed dispersants in oil spills. Their final conclusion with regard to dispersants was that the toxicity of an oil spill does not lie with the dispersant. It lies with the oil that is being dispersed by the dispersant. There was very little evidence that was presented that would indicate that the dispersants were a cause for concern. It was the oil.

AUDIENCE3: On Corexit ? On that particular one?

(1:09:22.7)
BOB: Yes, on that particular one, 1995. Now, EPA actually has a list of approved dispersants. EPA actually approved to use...they have to and the coast guard. The EPA and Coast Guard have to approve the use of dispersant. It EPA administrator can correct me if I am wrong.

AUDIENCE3: It is approved, but yet they did not back up by saying please do not use it.

(1:09:47.3)
BOB: First of all, it had never been used at depth. That was new. And also they were concerned about the volume, massive volumes. Nearly one million gallons that are being used and our EPA colleagues can address that. I am only speaking in terms of seafood safety. I am not speaking in terms of environmental ecological harm that might occur.

AUDIENCE3: When you live on the coast that is a big factor. We all love and eat seafood.

(1:10:11.8)
BOB: I lived on Dauphin Island for 25 years now and I am on the water all the time. I am also the director of the Dauphin Island FDA lab. The Food and Drug Administration division of seafood science and technology. That is what we do. The FDA does not believe that the Corexit dispersants, from the studies that we have done and that we have examined, you can see these things on the web as well. You can pull them up and you can take a look at what they call the Material Safety Data Sheet. They will tell a lot about these

chemicals and exactly what is in there. You can look up and see what they are actually used for elsewhere as well.

LAUREEN: Hi my name is Laureen D'Lieu**.** Thank you all for being here. What plans are in place to rescue oiled wildlife as it appears or if and probably when it appears in great numbers here on the Mississippi Gulf Coast?

(1:11:21.0)
LOGAN: We are looking for wildlife rehabilitation efforts. Do we have anybody here that can speak to that?

RESPONDENT1: I can make a more personal comment. I am a volunteer at the Bon Secour Wildlife Refuge in that area. I and others would plan to be out there helping with that effort. That is in Alabama.

LAUREEN: You are already helping in the effort?

RESPONDENT1: I would plan to be if those animals...

LAUREEN: I have a follow up question or comment. Given the fact that it seems like...if you look on the website through conservation organizations that want to help. The bigger stumbling block seems to be the lack of HAZWOPER training. Why is it not being offered on a wide scale and free of cost to the thousands of people that have signed up to volunteer to rescue the wildlife because when it happens, it is going to be too late. If there's nobody out there in great numbers to help. Thanks.

(1:12:41.0)
LOGAN: I think we can get that answer for as well. I do know that they are doing some...

RESPONDENT1: Yes…sure.

(1:12:46.3)
LADON: I am no expert, but through cooperative extension and Sea Grant extension. There is a lot of training going on for various things, for positions with BP. Through extension, we felt like there was an opportunity to provide additional training and there has been a cadre of 33 people who has been trained to provide the module for the training. While we were going through that, we realized that if you are a waterfront home owner, you're gonna want to take care

of your own property. Not as a paid volunteer, but as a home owner. Obvious answer, if you see the oil washed on your beaches, call the BP hotline. Some people may do that. Some people may want to do it on their own. I cannot speak on anyone's personal choice on what they do. What we proposed to BP was to provide a basic homeowner safety training course so they know how to deal with the oil that is washed up on their beach. That has been a couple of weeks ago. We have not really heard back. It would be a broader training program. It really does not fall under the 1-, 2-, 6-, 24- or 40-hour Hazmat training. If you are a waterfront home owner and if it all comes up ashore on your property, then that is something you are going to have to deal with either by calling BP and asking them to come out or...that's really the only alternative that you have right now.

AUDIENCE4: Two things. One, I can offer some more information and somebody may already be aware of this. In addition to the Audubon Society, there is at least two more organizations on the coast that are dealing with wildlife and the recovery and rescue of them. One of one IMMS, Institute for Marine Mammals Studies. They are set up. They have staging areas already in place. They are ready to deal with... they already have all their personnel including their volunteers which I am one of. I have already had the training, HAZWOPER training, which is available online through BP for the employee. Basically, in answer to your question, I hope may be that helps you all out in answering it. There is also on organization, I cannot remember the name of it. That deal is with the birds. The rescue and recovery of the birds and oil clean up with them as well. Those organizations are in place. They are staged. They are ready to go. And they have been some of the birds and many turtles. They have logs that all of the animals are kept in for research. They have freezer trucks in place. They have oil containment units to properly dispose of the oil and all those kind of things. In question to that question, yes there has been a huge response to deal with the animals as they come in. My question, kinda of a tag on to all of that, and also in addition to all of the work that you fine people have been doing, obviously, there has been an enormous cost that goes along with doing what you are doing. Obviously, this was probably not built in your original job description. I am sure you are working many more hours than what you initially would dealing with this catastrophe and so are the people that are working for these nonprofit agencies, the bird recovery, the IMMS, the Audubon Society. I know they are tracking their hours in special

logs. I also know that reimbursement for those activities is very slow or nonexistent in coming so far. There is the aspect of all of our taxpayer dollars is going to support your activities, which are being admirably done, but how quickly and who is pushing to get that money to these nonprofit agencies that are doing all of this work because you got people working 60-80 hour work weeks right now doing stuff that is in addition to their normal... these organizations are set up to do the research and the recovery, and the strandings on a normal basis.

(1:14:28.9)
LOGAN: It sounds like the question is...

AUDIENCE4: Cost recovery...

(1:17:14.3)
LOGAN: Both for governmental and non-profits. Does anybody know how the paperwork trail goes here sitting at the table.

AUDIENCE4: ***[1:17:28.0 inaudible]***

(1:17:28.0)
LOGAN: That is a good question. I need to know that too. (Laughter)

PANELIST: I did just want to mention that for the Department of Marine Resources, all of our employees are instructed if they are working on oil-related activity. They will log that and all of that is being tracked. It is our intention to get BP to fund those activities which are over and above our normal activities. We do have a method in place to try to recapture those costs. Our business office is handling all the details of it, but our fisheries...there are specific contact people and each bureau that is tracking those hours. Thank you.

(1:18:13.9)
LOGAN: Yes, Sir, go ahead.

AUDIENCE4: I just want to follow up on so it's recorded. I understand what you are saying and I know the non-profit agencies are doing that as well. I guess the question is a lot of them are working...the government can borrow against itself and pay...obviously it is not ideal, but your non-profit agencies a lot of them are working off of

grants and different things like that. They are offered limited funding to do all this additional work. Timing is of the essence.

(1:18:39.7)
LOGAN: Make that notification there and we will get that answered. Yes sir, go ahead.

STUART: My name is Stuart Weir. I am just a retired citizen. Will the weathered old blobs or films or whatever that washes on the marshes, will it burn, and if so, why don't we just burn the marshes as the farmers, ranchers and all used to do for 200 years. They recovered until this day, but will they recover from oil spills. Thank you.

(1:19:13.1)
LOGAN: The question is once the oil gets into the marshes is it flammable? Can anybody speak to that? It is a little outside of the scope. We will get you a card to fill that out, Sir.

HARRY: Harry Johnson. I grew up on the waters. I am a commercial fisherman. My dad always taught me...I know how to smell fish. I know everything about the marsh. We trap, hunted, fished just like the gentleman said about burning the marshes.

END OF AUDIO.

END OF PART 1

START OF PART 2

(0:00:07.9) ***(AUDIO STARTS ABRUPTLY)***

HARRY: I wouldn't burn them all ***[0:00:08.4 audio unclear]***. But my concern is I was in ***Bayou Caddy*** Saturday. Okay, when the tide stopped, the tide stopped and I had my grandsons. My grandsons dumped the traps and all that. When the tide stopped, I showed them look the tide stopped, where they had this clear gelatin come up. I never did see it in the waters all my life. Born and raised in the waters, was in them waters everyday and see me, I could spot... if I'm running that boat, I could spot a prairie chicken, a turtle or anything on that side of the bank or in that water, an alligator, because I was born and raised and when you're in the water every

day and you're taught even when I lived in Bucktown as Metairie grew, my dad always had me looking out at the window for turtles and everything. This clear gelatin come up, and I showed my grandsons. I said that's got to be the disbursement, whatever they're breaking this oil up with. Saturday when you ride through the Marshalls, we actually had to put our shirts all over our face like this just to breathe and I've been having symptoms like when I get home that night, the room would be spinning and so I ended up picking up the crab traps. One of the crab traps when we pulled it up, it had little slick come up right about by the... that gel.

(0:02:05.8)
LOGAN: I guess your question is if you come across something like that who do you report it to? Is that what you're...? Okay.

HARRY: Yes, what I'm concerned too because like I said...

(0:02:13.0)
LOGAN: Right, obviously your concern, but do you want to be able to contact with one of these folks?

HARRY: By the way, got headaches because the smell was so strong.

(0:02:20.1)
LOGAN: Okay.

RESPONDENT: But I found the smell was over the marshes is more in the...
(0:02:26.6)
LOGAN: Okay.

HARRY: Where the gel comes up, I was way back up and one of the little [***0:02:30.7 audio unclear]***.

(0:02:30.7)
LOGAN: Okay. So this is reporting for folks that are actually out on the field?

PANELIST: Mr. Johnson if you want to get with me right after this meeting...

HARRY: Yes, Sir.

(0:02:38.5)

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PANELIST: You give me the location. That's exactly why we have these state emergencies response teams.

RESPONDENT: Yes, sir.

(0:02:43.6)
PANELIST: I'll send them out there. Try to get them out there today and look at the area that you're talking about.

HARRY: Okay. Yes, sir.

(0:02:48.2)
PANELIST: And check the marshes and take samples.

RESPONDENT: Okay.

(0:02:51.0)
PANELIST: So I'll be glad to do that and anybody that got some reports like that, we want to hear from you all in...while you're out doing your activities. You all rise for us to tell us about things that you see, so I'll be glad to get them sent today.

HARRY: I noticed too right... okay, right there by the pier, the fishing pier, you know how they build these sewer systems, open ponds and how the water turns green. You can tell it's a polluted green. Right there by the pier along the shore there by the fishing pier, the water was that color.

(0:03:25.9)
LOGAN: You all need to get together after this because you all are the eyes and ears that are out there in the field fishing the other day.

HARRY: Okay.

(0:03:30.2)
PANELIST: And you are the ones who are going to pick up all this stuff.

HARRY: Okay.

(0:03:33.0)
LOGAN: I appreciate that.

HARRY: All right. Thank you.

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(0:03:34.8)
LOGAN: Next up, Dave.

KAY: Good morning. My name is Kay and this maybe a trivial question in light of this unprecedented devastating ecological and financial disaster that's confronting us, but recognizing that I believe there are opportunistic parties out there. My question is and maybe among this group of people you might be able to answer this, is the Richton Dome plans dead in the water or can we expect, as we saw five years previous to this, somebody out there doing something when everyone else is interests were preoccupied with an issue called Katrina, so is Richton Dome project dead in the water?

(0:04:35.7)
LOGAN: Okay. I'm unfamiliar with that project, so I'm going to... (Laughter)

HARRIET: All I can say and wish Don Abrams was still in the room because I know that he's been very active with the Gulf Coalition is that it was removed from the Department of Energy's budget. There was some concern that it would be put back into the budget, but I believe the Gulf Restoration Network is following that closely and I do not believe that those funds had been put back into the DOE budget. But it does bear watching.

(0:05:17.8)
LOGAN: Thank you. Next, Dave. Okay. One last question.

RESPONDENT: Harriet, I don't have anything to add to that. It does say our two senators and Gene Taylor are leaning toward favoring it, so I wouldn't write it off as that issue yet. This is the strategic petroleum reserve expansion that's been proposed for the Richton salt domes. Follow-up question regarding EPA information, I think the EPA director announced the other day in 10,000 locations were samples had been done or 10,000 samples that had been taken. There was nothing out of the ordinary with respect to air-borne threats to human health, and I'm remembering some readings that came up in Venice about two weeks ago where I think it was some sulfur compound was detected at very high levels in Venice and some of the VOCs were up to about a thousand times the OSHA levels. Can you explain that discrepancy that there seems to have been some serious sort problems reported in Venice but Miss Lubchenco is that correct reported that...

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(0:06:39.6)
LOGAN: Yes, it's actually... more of an EPA's air quality question, is that correct? So are you comfortable... okay.

BOB: I know that EPA is doing a lot of water sampling and air sampling, and NOAA is doing a lot of water sampling, but I have not seen their data. All I have heard of, I've read that they haven't seen anything out of the ordinary except I did read in Venice were the water has hit the marshes that they were reporting something, but I don't know what the status of that is. I'm sorry.

All right. Thanks.

(0:07:12.1)
LOGAN: Could you fill out the card on that.

LOGAN: And lastly... you're going to wrap up Don. I do want to make one mention that if you feel like comfortable coming to the microphone and get your question answered, we do have this cards that you can flag her down and go ahead and fill it out. We will get those questions answered and back to you. At this time having no further questions, I want to thank you all for coming out this morning. We can give our panel here a big hand for coming out and braving the questions and it looks like you have the rest of the wonderful day.

END OF AUDIO.