OIL SPILL
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BILOXI, MS

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

[AUDIO STARTS ABRUPTLY.]

RESPONDENT: With the sunlight coming down and the gulf temperatures rising, is there a chance that that chemical dispersant is going to affect the temperature of the Gulf of Mexico to get warmer and maybe produce a more dangerous storm?

PANELIST: We had conversations with that as well. The way that I'm looking at that is in terms of size. You have the size of a hurricane. Go back to Katrina, go back to Ike, 1969, go back to Camille, the size of these storms. You could have some localized changes in temperature. Really, the hurricane is being affected by a bigger area. If you think about it, the size of the oil spill relative to the size of, say, Ike that covered mostly the Gulf of Mexico. I think what we're going to see is so much momentum, so much energy going into the hurricane that is going to feel such a wider area besides where the oil is. I don't think there's going to be much impact on the strength nor the direction of the hurricane. I think the biggest effect would be once again, the previous question, will be in the surge itself. If you look at geographically, I don't think there's going to be much of an effect. Good question though. If you have them, write them on your card. Our office is only about half hour away over in Slidell, so if you have them, write down your questions. We'll get answers to you.

AUDIENCE: I've been watching the maps**.** My daughter has made me just start watching them once a day. I look at them once a day. I noticed that, of course with the tides and whatever, is there a chance it's going to move a great distance? It looks like it’s really moved south of us in Alabama in the last few days, where it was primarily under Louisiana there for a while, is there a chance it won't come ashore here and it's going to move again with the tides?

PANELIST: From our perspective, we're dealing with the meteorology aspects of this. There's so many different things are going through it. It's the winds, it's your currents. It's a lot of different factors that go to

the oil. What I can say is, one thing that you keep in mind too with the hurricane. Think about the direction that the hurricane rotates. That's where we're trying to, what we're concentrating on right now. We do get some sort of hurricane that occurs west of here. Let's say, if we're really speaking with the Mississippi Gulf Coast, if the hurricane hits Louisiana, the onshore flow could push some of that oil in. Now, if you get a hurricane on the opposite direction towards Florida, you can in essence get the offshore flow to blow the oil out. So, when I get the questions about where's the oil going to go with the hurricane, it is completely dependent on where the hurricane goes. An Ike type of thing will blow it back towards the east. It will depend on the actual direction, but you're talking tides, currents, winds. There's so many different factors that add up. And to be honest with you, a lot of unknowns with it. I kind of answered the question, but I turned it back to the hurricane.

AUDIENCE: I'm not even thinking of hurricane. I'm thinking about natural. It just looks like I'm, you go 72 hours out. Within 24 hours, all that changes again.

PANELIST: You know what's going to change again, if you look at the forecast, we have a, it's a non-tropical system, but there's a small low that's actually in the gulf that's gonna bring us some showers, watch the showers and thunderstorms start to increase significantly tonight. It's going to come through, right over the spill area, right over the Gulf Coast area, you're going to see a lot of rain. And, once again, you try to get ahead of the game and where things are going to go. And now, we got a system developing that's going to change the winds, you're gonna have some, you know, rotation. And they're non-tropical again, so don't get excited there. But, that again changes the whole ball game. Just like the old saying down here, if you don't like the weather, wait a minute. It's the truth. It's the same thing with this, we got another system and it's going to impact where things go.

(0:04:22.9)
MODERATOR: ***[0:04:01.8 inaudible].*** Let's get started. We have ***[0:04:13.0 inaudible]*** that are here to answer your questions today. ***[0:04:19.4 inaudible].*** Starting in the front row, do you have any questions?

RESPONDENT: It's a different question though.

(0:04:34.0)

MODERATOR: Okay. We'll get you in a minute. There's not many people in here. How about you? Do you have any questions? How about you? Okay, please step forward.

JOE: Hi, my name is Joe Magaziki ***[0:04:53.5 sp?].*** I have a question regarding to the ecosystem. Are there plans to deploy technologies outside of satellites to monitor the damage done to the marshes, done deep into the marshes, where the ecosystem is most affected? And, if so, what would those technologies be?

RESPONDENT: Maybe I should quantify or qualify what this group can answer. That is more of a ecological question is probably for the fisheries group. We can answer the questions related to public health, to the air monitoring we're doing, and the water sampling we're doing and the results of that. Things related to fisheries and ecological impacts to the marshes.

BRYON: Good morning ladies and gentlemen. I'm the director of the Gulf of Mexico program that Stan recognized in his opening remarks this morning. The fact of the matter is that particular question can be actually directly answered in a number of ways. The Gulf of Mexico region actually operates under a group of capacities, not the least of which is the emergence of the Gulf of Mexico Governor's Alliance. The governors' Alliance is a real merger between federal, state and local capacities. In this particular regard, you can look into the future. It may not be the technologies because there was not the anticipation of such an oil spill in many of those inundated areas. The integrated capacity of the science agencies, again both federal and state and private and academia, is a guaranteed outcome of the process of both dealing with the resource damage assessment as well as basically, the response framework. You have all noticed in recent days, the $500 million research grant applied by BP. Just as an example, that research capacity will begin to come out of largely academia as to how to use other technologies than just the satellite systems and the remote sensing to begin to get a feel in a much more capable approach as time emerges on how to get into the actual affect of the constituents in those areas. So, I didn't want you to go where

I'm thinking there wasn't an answer to that question because we're all posed right now with a problem that we did not anticipate prior to April, late April. The fact of the matter is, we do have a lot of assets that we'll be reestablishing framework on.

ROBINSON: That was a very good question, that was a very good answer, but I just wanted to add a couple of other points. As I said in my opening remark, one of the most important things with NOAA and the federal trustees and state trustees was having a baseline of what was out there before this incident occurred. Part of that assessment has been the extent of the marshes that are out there. We've flown aerial flyovers, we have mapped and photographed these areas. We know how much is out there. We've also done stock assessment on fisheries, we've done assessment of aquatic species of these areas. We know what it looks like for the most part prior to the event. And then, we will follow up, post-event to see to what extent these resources has been impacted. Some of them, you can do from an airplane, you can do it from a satellite, but many of these observations, you're going to have to get out of the field without a lot of high technology but a lot of scientific expertise about what's happening in these systems. Because a lot of it is observing these types of biological processes or these evidence of them sort of on an up-close and personal basis. We've used a lot of technology to get an idea of what's out there. You can get a gross picture of what's happening after this is done. But, the particulars of what happened is a, you know, a much more difficult question. There isn’t any off-the-shelf technologies other than knowing what level of contaminants are out there, for example, that can answer that type of question.

TOM: It kind of piggy back. My name is Tom Drunnet. Our aircraft has been in the New Orleans area for about quarter of a month now. We've got hyperspectral equipment in it. We’ve been flying day and night, about eight hours a day. We also have scientists, geologists that's been taking soil samples, water samples. I'd like to know what agency we can coordinate with to perhaps share all this information that we have, which is very detailed. Because we can actually, with our equipment, we can fingerprint this oil so that if it shows up someplace else, it can be attributed to that oil, that type of thing.

That's a federal organized structure to provide that type of information to. I'll give you that however I would like to bring to your attention that tomorrow at LSU, we're hosting a science conference. And one of the undercutting, cross-cutting themes of that conference is how do we engage more effectively the non-federal science community in helping us not only with the response to this but the long-term science questions associated with this. If you could get anybody there, that would be...

TOM: If I can get any information from you later, I'd appreciate it.

ROBINSON: Just sort of a point, I've also, we, my former NOAA center, we've actually flown hyper spectral images of all of the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve just before, just after this event occurrence. We have some of that baseline...

TOM: We do also.

ROBINSON: Yes, that we want to get in there too. So, I think there's a structured process for that. We'll inform you that. Any baseline data that is out there, it's going to be very helpful in determining, doing this damage assessment in the long term.

TOM: Thank you very much.

SUZANNE: Good morning. My name is Suzanne Huber. My question is who has the information as to how many gallons of oil-and-water mixture is being removed daily from the gulf? We know how much is going in. But how much is coming out, and exactly where is it going? How is it being recycled? Who would have that information?

RESPONDENT: The information itself is being managed ***[0:12:51.2 inaudible]*** at the area command, the unified area command. It's available. I don't have it for you, but we can point you to the websites to get that information. All that information is as far as what's being collected, how it is being disposed of. It's all publicly available. I can give you, if you write down your information, I can get you the website. There are actually a number of websites that are being maintained by EPA, by the Coast Guard, by NOAA that have a lot of

information on what's going on, data, health effects, ecological effects. Probably it would be helpful.

SUZANNE: It would be helpful if that was all on one site but that doesn't seem possible.

RESPONDENT: There are links. Normally, even that we have separate sites, sites themselves have links to other agency sites.

***[0:13:59.5 inaudible]*.** You'll find the dispersants used by gallons both surface and subsea. I've noticed it is not updated daily. There are periods of time. There's probably a reason for that, which the cycle stops for either weather or what have you. The one consistent reporting site has been Horizon spill response site, which is the one that is aggregate managed by BP's postings.

SUZANNE: As far as the amount of boom that has been laid and most of the information unfortunately is bits and pieces from the media. The million miles or million feet of boom, which translates into what, under 200 miles, which definitely doesn't cover the coast line. The fact that it is containing the oil temporarily. Why aren't there the larger skimmers or vacuum units that can remove over 120 thousand gallons a day being used to stop this prior to it going past the booms.

BRYON: Unfortunately that's not a response of federal government. That's actually a BP question, and I don't think those representatives are here.

SUZANNE: Okay. Thank you.

JERRY: Hopefully I'm in the right place. I'm Jerry Becker. I work with Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding. We're just wondering, what's the best way, the best practice to clean the hull of the ship. Is it with high pressure water? Do they use, mix it with dispersant. If so, we would be washing pier side**.** Would we have to do any monitoring data?

PANELIST: We found that high-pressure washing is effective. However, it should be coordinated with the Coast Guard. Use of dispersants anywhere within the waters in United States is regulated by either EPA or the Coast Guard. So, and there are some plans in place, in fact, out of the Mobile Unified Command, there's a specific plan for cleaning of vessels, oiled vessels. It has been effective, so far, to just use high-pressure water.

DAVID: I'm David Pose, and I'm also of Northrop Grumman, with the trial coordination department. We are, currently, in the process of reevaluating our upcoming sea trial to try to avoid the oil area. Daily, it's becoming more difficult. As it's pushing us farther into the east to avoid any of the sheen. Due to our reverse osmosis units on these Navy ships, according to the tape manuals having a zero part per million ingestion. Filters are exceptionally high for these. And once ingested of oil, they are not cleanable or replaceable. There's some discussion going about what a level is possibly is able to handle. Doesn't look like it is going to be much. I have a question that I'm probably not get an answer to, but we need someone who can answer it. We need to know what parts per million are in the Gulf subsurface so that we'll know where we can run and where we can't run these ships through. It also affects our heat exchangers, our saltwater cooling, the spy-ray radar heat exchangers, and miscellaneous other equipment. I really need a contact on where we can get some definitive information.

TERRY: I guess I want to go to the website, we do post, we do some water monitoring in the gulf. We do post some of that data. Of course the problem is that ship is over time as you mentioned. Information that you have today may not be relevant to you for tomorrow. The Coast Guard would be the best source especially out of Mobile, depending on where you are will be the best source for that information. EPA is providing water monitoring for the Coast Guard. They have that information. So, that might be your best source at this point.

RESPONDENT: We're looking for a little more information from the fairway out to one to 200 miles. That doesn't seem to be available anywhere. Quite frankly, the Deepwater Horizon Incident site it's not up to date generally, as the speaker over here had commented to, it tends

to be a little out of date. In fact, the modest pictures that are available anymore because most of them have been taken off line are a week old. There's no visible high-resolution pictures to look at anymore. We need some clear answers and someone to contact. I will write that down.

TERRY: You're correct. Our focus has been, for water sampling for human health and ecological concerns, which are relatively close to shore and that was in the 100-mile area.

(0:20:40.9)
MODERATOR: Real quick, I will remind everyone that you an extra panelist ***[0:20:44.0 inaudible]***.

VANESSA: Good morning. I'm Vanessa Gibson and I'm a resident of Jackson County, Gautier, Mississippi. I'm also representing Jackson County Civic Action, community action agency. I do hear that the air quality is being tested and that there's no significant danger at this point. But, I am concerned for the children and elderly populations and people who do have respiratory problems. In my personal experience has been that on one particular Sunday while gardening, there was a very strong smell of diesel in the air and after about 15, 20 minutes of being outside, I didn't want to be there anymore. My eyes did burn and it was itchy. Whether or not there is significant air quality issues or not, may not be what we need to hear. We need to know when we need to stay inside. Or if you're burning, then let us know in advance that there may be some stuff going on. Is there something in place to warn the community about it before it actually happens?

RESPONDENT: Those are very good questions ma'am. Just so you know that all the air monitoring that's being conducted right now, the samples that are being done from ***[0:22:43.0 inaudible]*** from the fixed locations and from the roving teams. Those results are sent to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. They are actually doing a screening with health guidance values. These screen levels are determined based on susceptible populations and children. These are for intermediate exposures. Basically, being exposed to these chemicals for over a year. Basically, we're not finding any hits that we're considering health significance when means hits that are prolonged at those levels that we anticipate seeing any adverse

health effects. No, does that mean you're not going to be able to smell it? No. The good thing about petroleum products and the stuff we're seeing coming off them is our noses will pick them up way before they become a health concern. We're sensing them there. There are some people that are susceptible to it who may have, like you're saying, eyes watering, allergic reactions. In that case, our recommendations would be that if you start sensing these things, the BP has a number to call to report these odors. And when these calls come in, the protocol that we're handling is, the calls come into the BP contractor and to the EPA's and on-scene coordinators. They're sending out teams to check up on all these odor complaints or odor notifications we're getting and are taking real time readings there. If they see readings that exceed the health guidance levels that we're looking for, that's when we take it one more step. Are they finding something that's a localized source? We start looking at particulates from the burning that you're talking about. They're basically using the screen that they use for air quality. I live in Atlanta. We have very poor air quality there with all the cars. So, the same screening levels that we're using there is what they're using here. Basically, what they're doing is they're measuring particulates in the air. Now, if you happen to be taking these tests during a windy day on the beach, you're going to get higher particulate levels there. If you're burning, you'll get the particulate levels there. They're looking for a localized source. When they start getting to a level where they start reaching of a health concern. That's when you'll start seeing notices coming out. The reason why you haven't seen any notices is we haven't hit that level yet. But, we have plans in place to get the words out to the community members and to our health contacts with the states and local government. We are here to basically protect the general public.

FEMALE: I just like to say that if you are experiencing those symptoms that the recommendations from the health department are just to stay indoors, turn on your AC to a more better ventilated air source. The odors can cause lightheadedness, nausea, vomiting in certain people. If that's what they are starting to experience, go indoors. If it does persist, we do ask that you seek care from a health care provider.

PETER: Dr. Robinson, I'm Peter Hoar. As I've mentioned, I used to work for NOAA coastal data and was the manager at the Grand Bay Research Reserve prior to that. You had indicated that there was going to be a meeting tomorrow for how the role was going to be defined for non-government organizations. Could you elaborate on that a little bit and where it's going to be?

ROBINSON: The meeting is going to be held at LSU. Actually, there is a reception I believe it's six o'clock. The meeting starts tomorrow morning from eight to five PM. One of the primary goals of the meeting is to bring into this overall discussing in some organized fashion. Non-federal scientist who could help play a role in a federal response but also in long-term issues that we hope, are going to be actively defined by the participants at this conference. And the reason that we're having it here, and the reason is that we know that it is very important to have people who know about these particular systems that are being impacted, a s well as other scientists from around the nation. We're having it here for that particular reason. So, it will start out with plenary session with an overview of what we are doing in a federal sector. Dr. Lubchenco, the NOAA administrator, will be there herself to provide that. As well as a presentation by Dr. McNutt from USGS and Tim Killeen ***[0:27:39.4 sp>]*** from NSF. The rest of the meeting however is three concurrent break-out sessions facilitated by the Consortium for Ocean Leadership. We anticipated 100 to 150 participants from the non-federal scientific community to address what are the immediate thing, midterm things and long-term questions that we need to address here. With that cross-cutting theme I'd talked about earlier, that is data, data quality data availability. Basically information of the type people have talked about here this morning. It's available not only to the scientific community, but to the lay public as well.

RESPONDENT: That's excellent, directly relevant. Jennifer, there was one other thing I wanted to perhaps remind you of. Following hurricane Georges, LSU did a video survey of the entire coast of Mississippi. At the time we did that, I was able to engineer them doing overflights of Grand Bay NERR. So, we do have those data as well. I talk with you a bit more,, that's Karen Wesfall.

(0:29:00.9)

MODERATOR: ***[0:29:00.2 inaudible]***

JAMIE: Hi, I'm Jamie. Regarding environmental more than human health. For water and sediments sampling, and I'm sorry, if this is on your website, do you have a long-term plan at this point and what are the contaminants of concern if you do?

TERRY: We do have a long-term monitoring plan or sampling plan actually for Region 6, which is Louisiana and Texas. For Region 4, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. The plan really starts; we've, let me step back, we've taken samples as a baseline all along the coast. We also plan to take samples if oil impacts the coast and it looks like it is. For sediment, along the beaches, along the inland water ways and the bay out to three miles and beyond if we need to... It may be on the website, but we have a listing, and I can give you further details. On the side, we're looking for volatiles and semi-volatiles, metals, total petroleum hydrocarbons. Let's see here, see if I miss anything, mercury, pesticides and PCBs. That's an initial damage type assessment oil is hit. And then we have a plan to do follow-up as clean up proceeds. There's a long-term, there's a concept of a long-term plan that we're still working on as to what to do and what sort of sampling that's going to be necessary. That's something that we'll work out between EPA and NOAA and the Coast Guard and others and the states.

(0:31:30.8)
MODERATOR: There is one more follow up.

JAMIE: Sure, it's Jamie Mitchell. The contaminated sediments for disposal, where would they be disposed of?

TERRY: There is a disposal plan. There are some disposal facilities whether or not sediments will be excavated has to do more with a trade-off between damage to ecosystem and whether it's a good idea to actually take up sediments. There are landfills and there are disposal facilities that have been already identified within the area, as well as there is a big push to do recycling obviously of reusable oil.

GLENN: My name is Glenn ***[inaudible]***. Just a quick question. Can you go over the decomposition of oil? What we should expect, 10% will evaporate, 20% will remain for a year, and, I don't know, 10% will

remain forever. Is that known on the type of oil we've got leaking, spilling?

PANELIST: We can talk about the life cycle of oil, but I want to make sure that you understand the information I'm providing I got from our brothers and sisters from NOAA. I was asked to help regional states come up with a pictorial fact sheet on oil. You know the crude comes up, right? That's where you get the slick from. It floats on top of the water. As it starts breaking down, you get a really thin layer. That's what's called a sheen. I'm sure if you've seen any pictures, you've seen the sheens that they're showing from the aerial photographs. As the slick is running on the water, floating underwater, all the volatile organics start coming off it. That's why we're not getting hits here on shore because we're losing most of it out at sea. As it starts weathering, you go from being a slick to this like pudding or mousse-like type of structure. From there it goes into being tar balls where they get harder and they start floating and sinking. That's the life cycle. What percentage and how long it takes for it to depose of? I'm not a petroleum chemist, I can't really tell you that. That's not my expertise. That's the different life cycle of this oil is doing. When you have the sheen and they start breaking up the oil, that's what they were talking about the microorganisms in the ecosystem helping to break it down. Oil seeps occur naturally here in the gulf and throughout the country or throughout the world. The ecosystem is used to having petroleum get into it naturally and it breaks it down. What we're seeing from this spill now is that carrying capacity is being overloaded or stressed. How much can it take until it starts environmentally impacting it? I can't answer it and I wouldn't want to because that's not my expertise. That's something that the federal government and our partners are looking into. When we're talking about the dispersants, the toxicity of it. We're talking about the toxicity it's having on the ecosystem not on the public health. I hope that answered your question, Sir.

CYNTHIA: Good morning. My name is Cynthia. I have a product that's been EPA approved and it's biodegradable, it's 100% natural. It absorbs the oil out of the water, it surpresses the fumes, but I can't seem to get this product in anybody's hand. I'm catchin' "go see this person," "call this number," "fill out this form," but that's not

helping the oil slick that's on top of the water. Who do I need to see? And, where can I go to get this product out there?

PANELIST: EPA, as well as the Coast Guard, has set up a specific organization to look at new products. You say your product is EPA approved then make sure that it's on the product list. There is actually an EPA product list for oil dispersant products or absorbents or other things. Again, if you fill out the green list, the green form, we'll get you the group that looks at, up and coming or new products.

CYNTHIA: OK. That'll work.

JEFF: I'm not sure whether you can answer this. My name is Jeff Feinberg, I represent Northrup Grumman Trials Coordination. Went to the other room to ask this question, there was no representatives there to answer the question. The question is, as my counterpart said earlier, we're in the process of getting ready to take a vessel out, into the Gulf. Not necessarily what we do with it when we're out there, but as we return, our requirements that we have to come through a wash station. This is roughly a 600-foot vessel. What are the requirements? How long will it take to vessel back in to get it washed? Do we have to go through a wash? Can somebody here address that question?

PANELIST: Actually there is a vessel decontamination plan for deep-draft and inshore vessels. It's being run by the coast guard for deep draft. They're doing the commercial like tankers and stuff coming in. I would suggest if you contact them, they would be able to give you more specific information because that's not our area of expertise. That makes any sense?

JEFF: Who is them and do you have a name?

PANELIST: I would contact the Unified Command and ask for the operations decon vessels group. There's a whole group just assigned for vessel decontamination.

JEFF: Is that out of Mobile?

PANELIST: Yes, sir.

(0:38:27.6)
MODERATOR: ***[0:38:27.6 inaudible]***.

RESPONDENT: Mine's back to the air quality.

(0:38:37.5)
MODERATOR: What's your name?

LINDA: Linda Alfonso. I don't feel comfortable with our governor on TV telling everyone that the chemical fumes that we're smelling are not toxic. Does he know that? I feel like they are. The few days that we have smelled it on the coast, I have experienced, as she said, the burning in the chest. I could not go outside. Are we going to be smelling that every day if this comes ashore? Are you going to be able to tell us the truth? We're talking about so many thousands of people who would panic if they knew that they may get ill and it could have some long lasting effects. I'm worried. I'm concerned. I live here, rebuilt my home after the storm. Am I going to lose it again? Am I going to have to leave because of the air quality? I felt that if I had to smell that every day, I would be or I can't stay inside every day, all day. I have to go out.

PANELIST: That's a really good concern. There are a lot of people that have these problems, smelling these odors. Again, when we do our risk analysis and we basically looked at the data. We basically set a screen level that is extremely conservative. It's basically based on a child. It's based on a child being exposed to these chemicals for up to a year. We basically set it for a level where we're not expecting to see. We look at a data point. We look at post exposure. At this point, a child might short seeing symptoms. At this point, children are not showing any symptoms at all. Then, we basically put in a protection factor that lowers it anywhere from a hundred to a thousand decimal points back away. That's our screening level. Basically looking at the most conservative number we can to protect the public as much as possible. When we do the evaluation of the data and we're looking at the stuff that comes in from EPA and BP's contractor and now the states are putting the information so their air sampling is going in with this other data set. We're looking at these levels and we're screening against that most conservative number we have. Once the trigger is hit that says

these are elevated, we could start anticipating public health hazards occurring. That's where they'll start putting in the notices and looking about whether or not they have to evacuate people, which we don't anticipate at this time.

(0:41:24.4)
LINDA: You are talking about exposure for a year…

PANELIST: No ma'am. These levels are very conservative that we set on. It's called an intermediate exposure. We're basically looking at using that as a screening tool that if someone had this exposure at that level for a year, there would not be an adverse effect. We're looking at that closely to say, okay, if they're not getting it at this level, the acute level is usually higher than that. This is the lower level. We're anticipating that at this level we're not seeing any health effects. If it starts getting higher than that, we are going to basically tell people to either stay indoors or to relocate to another area. Those are decisions that are made by the public health advisers.

(0:42:09.0)
LINDA: If it does hit the land here, are we going to be smelling that every day? Because I know I'll have to leave.

PANELIST: The potential is or possibility is, yes.

(0:42:22.1)

LINDA: We've been lucky these last few weeks. It's only been…

TERRY: What I wanted to say is we're not just doing sampling, air sampling here on the coast. We've also done sampling out where the spill is, out where the continued leak is. We're trying to be as conservative as we possibly can. Our air sampling, we look at every single day, some of it is continuous, some of it we get the next day. We're not seeing levels that are…even looking at it very conservatively is of concern. It doesn't mean you're not going to smell it every day. I've smelled it.

(0:43:08.8)

LINDA: Or make us sick, yes.

TERRY: A smell can.

(0:43:12.9)
MODERATOR: Some of us, yes.

PANELIST: Yes, right. Smell can make a person sick. There's no doubt about that, and will get worse if hits the shore? Most likely, the smell will get worse. Are we expecting to see levels of concern, levels that we're going to ask people to stay indoors or to leave an area, I don't think so because we've sampled out to sea and we're not seeing those levels. It doesn't mean it's not going to happen. It doesn't mean that we're going to stop sampling, stop air monitoring, stop doing what we're doing on the coast, we're not. We're doing it every single day. There's a map in the back that shows you all the places we've been. We're there today. We will continue to be there tomorrow, but it doesn't mean that you're not going smell it and it doesn't mean you're not going to feel ill. That's it. Personal thing, it happens to be that the oil continues to leak. Until it stops…

(0:44:11.9)
MODERATOR: What about those men that were…

PAMELA: My name is Pamela Hancock. I teach at St. Stanislaus, which as you know is a lovely school, right smack dab ***[0:44:29.1 inaudible]*** on the beach. We were awarded grant to be in part of called BWET program, which is a program to monitor the water up and down the coast with a number of high schools involved. We also have a robotics program which we're switching over to an ROV program. In the meantime, we had hooked up our ROV to do water sensing, water monitoring to find out what was out there. Now, I have a question about whether that's going to be able to continue because I don't think we want to expose our students to oil if there's oil in the bay. On a more long-term basis, do you foresee the local science teacher, science student community being able to participate maybe a year down the road once the spill

comes ashore, the immediate disaster has been mitigated for us to go back to participating in water sampling?

ROBINSON: Thank you. First of all, congratulations on being one of the recipients of one of those BWET programs, they're very competitive. I would think that if the beach is closed, obviously you don't want kids out there. That's pretty clear. However, the potential for reopening once cleanup work has been done, beach declared as safe, as a learning opportunity for students is rather tremendous because if you have pre- and post-spill data, that would be tremendously valuable for students who sort of understand how these things might impact these precious ecosystems. I think the learning opportunity is going to be tremendous for students in this region. Particular who are as close to sthis as you are and then who have funding to do the type of work is going to be necessary to do, high-quality research. I was going to encourage that. Hopefully, you get yourself in a nice NOSB and Ocean Bowl team together and compete against my team in Florida one day.

PAMELA: It's another school-related question. I teach math primarily. I'm the robotics coach, but I also teach math. One of the things we've been talking about in math is the sense that, I'm sure someone is doing mathematical modeling. There's a certain amount of oil coming out every day, a certain amount is being burned, a certain amount is being skimmed off, you would think that one of the things that would…eventually the laypeople would be able to access is, what mathematical models are you using because at this point I'm sure know, on ongoing basis if you're getting so much oil per day and you're only mitigating part of it, if you're only taking care a part of it, you got part that's out sitting out there, getting ready to come on shore somewhere. So I guess from a mathematician point of view, it would be nice if that piece of it was a little more transparent because I think that… Also as a citizen, it would be nice to know what we're dealing with in terms of numbers.

ROBINSON:

As you're probably aware, there was a flow rate technical group that released this report last week. It was announced in Washington. One of the methods was the mass balance method.

We're trying to put it all together. What you think is coming out of the well, how much you think has been skimmed, how much have been burned, how much has been weathered or biodegraded by other means. That report, I believe, is available for public consumption at this time. There might be another education for your students.

(0:47:57.3)
PAMELA: Can you think of reports online?

ROBINSON:
I believe so but I know for at least the last week in a press conference in DC. We'll get that information to you.

PLEASANT: My name is Pleasant McNeil. My background is in air quality modeling. Just a follow up on the modeling question, I have another question about the plume. You talked about all the data that you're collecting, the mobile stations, do they also include wind data? Do you include meteorological data at all the mobile stations? My bigger question is, are all the air quality data that you're doing, I know that it would be difficult to model something the size of the plume and the air coming off of it. Is there an attempt being made to model that data, to correlate all the sampling that you guys are doing?

PANELIST: You have two questions, first one is the fixed locations. There are five fixed locations. That we're specifically looking at within Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. There's more fixed locations but these are we focused on right now. Also, have meteorological information that's taken as part of that. Those are actually State locations. EPA has installed some additional air sampling equipment there but those are fixed State locations. Yes, number one. Can you repeat again your second question?

PLEASANT: The question was basically, is some organization attempting to create a model that correlates all the data that you guys are collecting?

PANELIST:: Well, yes and no. Yes, we are working with models. No, in that especially on the air front, mostly what we're finding is zeros or what is commonly found here on the Gulf Coast at this time of

year as Mr.Meilburg had said. We need more input into the model to actually show a correlation. From the water perspective, we're not finding anything from the air perspective. Not yet. We're not finding anything.

PLEASANT: The follow up question would be what third party sampling is going on? I know that there's a bucket brigade that goes out and collect samples. Is that data going into your database or somebody else?

TERRY: Sampling is conducted (air sampling, air monitoring, water sampling, sediment sampling) is conducted by all three states, EPA. There's a certain amount that NOAA also conducts. The responsible party, BP, conducts samples. All that information is brought together in one database and is correlated and looked at. Those are the entities. I don't know if we can consider it a third party, but those are the entities in conducting sample in monitoring.

SUZANNE: My name is Suzanne Huber. I own Keith Huber Incorporated which is a vacuum mobile loading equipment. We manufacture equipment for the petroleum industry and the waste industry and we have for over 28 years. We are in Gulfport, Mississippi, on Highway 49. Being both a resident and the in the industry for so many years has led me to the questions that I was asking today previously about the amount of oil and water that is being removed daily from the Gulf. I appreciate the forum, and I appreciate you taking your time to answer all the questions about where to find the information and making plans for the future for when it reaches the soil or the shore. My question to you and actually to everybody in the audience is, why isn't everyone focusing more on stopping it before it gets to shore? Why aren't we receiving any of that information? These are questions that each and every one of us should be asking that isn't being answered that focuses on the spill at the site, what are we going to do when it comes to shore. Maybe it's because we become too complacent waiting for hurricanes to come in and we know we're going to clean up afterwards. The information needs to us prior to it reaching the shore, we can stop it before it reaches the shore, there are methods of doing it and there's a gap in that information. When you were asking about the mathematical equations, there's many that you can get for flow rates. You're talking about actual models that are done by

retrieving the information on how much oil and gas is being removed and the fact that is going to recycling centers and being burned off. These are questions we need to be asking. My questions is, who can I talk to today or forum or committee that can tell me what is happening out there, not who is planning things for when it reaches shore.

(0:53:55.5)
MODERATOR: Actually, she needs a whole… That's the question.

PANELIST: They're great questions. We would need a Coast Guard representative. The cleanup is being directed by the Coast Guard. EPA is doing air monitoring, air sampling. That's why we're here. The Coast Guard is directing cleanup. We don't have a Coast Guard representative in the room.

SUZANNE: I have spoke with the coast guard, I have spoke now with the EPA, I have also spoke with BP directly and several of the station sites and commanders. I have spoke to Gene Taylor, Thad Cochran have a conference hopefully coming up with that one. None of these questions can be answered by anyone. They're always passed to the next department. I thank you for hoping that it was the Coast Guard, but that's not the answer either.

MILTON: Hi I'm Milton Williams. Dr. Robinson, I don't know if you were here at the beginning of the process of asking questions. You can understand our concern. When we hear reports of the Louisiana shrimpers that are out there, and getting sick and taken to the hospital. Now, there are reports that they're cutting down, stopping the work on the oil platforms because of the fumes, and the workers can't work out there. We get a report on WLOX yesterday that the count of animals and birds that have died, over 400 in sea birds alone. And, what troubles me is that they only found oil on about 75 of them, what killed the 325? These are on the ground like we are. They're close to the surface. Multiple times we have smelled the oil or whatever, the diesel coming in in Pass Christian, which is closer to Louisiana. It's my concern. I don't have a question about that. My question really would be probably for NOAA, Dr. Robinson, the National Hurricane Center has forecast a very high storm. What is the procedure? BP's trying now to do something where they can put a semi-cap that will siphon off from

a 21-inch opening, a 6-inch pipe. They're saying, they're going to get the most of the oil. I'm not a mathematician, but that doesn't sound it would really work. My real concern is that even at that attempt and it works, when we have a hurricane, everybody has to leave the Gulf. What are they going to do if they are successful and there's a storm coming or multiple storms, do they abandon the process? Now, we have it flowing again. I know you really can't answer that. May I submit something that the Lord gave me as I was coming in here today, it's a… Thank you for coming. Thanks for being on this team. Do what you can. You are the authority over us for our protection. So, thanks.

DIANE: I'm going down the human aspect. I did go away to town for two weeks, and I did come back last Monday or Tuesday. You've heard me coughing in the back. Maybe there's something in the air, and the birds in our neighborhood have been doing, what I refer to is Alfred Hitchcock. They've been coming up underneath my deck in a really strange fashion that they've never done before. I'm just kinda making a statement. I do want to ask about the air conditioning because we do have a little bayou that comes behind our house that's very close. Say something does come up, are our air conditioner filters going to be able to handle the smell if it does come in? Is there some kind of filter we should be getting? I have been coughing a real lot. It might be coincidence. I never get sick. But, I want to know that that the filters will be able to handle the smell because you say to go into the home. I know sometimes when we get those stinky white flowers that comes out, sometimes I can smell through the filter. This question is for you, I don't know if there's a special filter we can get. (Chuckle) The air conditioner filter. You had said something about going in the house, crank up your air conditioner.

PANELIST: I don't know if I can address the actual air conditioner filter question. That was our recommendations. I'll tell you what the health department is doing to address the air quality and the public health effects. We are monitoring coastal hospitals for surveillance, looking at rash, respiratory and other, the nausea, vomiting, headaches to look to see if we've had increases in our ERs. We've been monitoring that since the beginning of May, shortly after the oil leak happened. As of yet, we haven't seen any problems. No significant increases in our coastal communities. So, that's a plus.

Not to say that you're not experiencing these. Individuals are going to experience a different… I don't know of a special filter on your air conditioner.

DIANE: We're playing the what-if game right now.

PANELIST: Right.

DIANE: We don't know if this is…

PANELIST: If the smells do get in, maybe this is where EPA or somebody else might fill to step in, it would at least lessen the effect of being out in the open air. At least it would cut it down at least to half or at least some than being out in the true open air, being exposed to it. Do you all know of a certain filter?

LARRY: The reason when they say, go inside your house and turn on the air is the fact that if you go in your house and you leave your windows open with the fans, it's going to follow you inside.

DIANE: Yes. We know that.

LARRY: The logical thing is okay, basically, a lot of the air conditioners are circulating air from inside the house and bring a little bit of recharge from outside. That's the logic behind going inside your house and putting your air conditioner on.

DIANE: Yes. That makes sense.

LARRY: The only other thing I can think of is I wouldn't want you to go out and buy one of these things. They have those air systems that have a charcoal filter. That would soften the air. We're not anticipating high enough levels to justify going out there and spending that large amount of money…

DIANE: Yes, because we got water right behind us. It was just a thought because I'm trying to do other things. Like I said, I have been coughing so much that this rib is…

LARRY: I moved from Arizona to Atlanta when they transferred me to work for CDC. I don't know what it is, twice a year, I can't breathe at all.

I usually didn't have any allergies but there's something that comes in the bloom that I can't even walk out of my house.

DIANE: Like I said, I never get sick other than migraines. That's occasionally…Thank you.

[1:01:34.5 inaudible]

It might be something that's going to be important.

SANDRA: I'm Sandra Price with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. I can't really find a room where this is the appropriate question. I see powerful folks in here and I'm going to ask it in here. When we respond to natural disasters, FEMA's our go-to group, we know how that works and it works well. As far as we know right now, FEMA's not involved. Is FEMA in the conversation about what happens if there's a hurricane with oil because all of our disaster response groups are going to need training in what specially needs to be done. We need to know how we can fit in with the current structure as the VOAD group, so that we can be part of the solution. I know that we're not going to do the cleanup because BP's paying for that. Does that make my question clear?

It's as clear as mud.

All right.

LARRY: Let me see if I can handle it. This is an oil response which is covered under the National Contingency Plan and OPA, the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. During a hurricane, when the president declares a natural disaster and basically has a Stafford Action, am I correct? Basically, what that does, that's when FEMA jumps in and brings up all the emergency support functions in which nongovernment agencies like the churches come up and set up these shelters and feeding facilities come in place. That's the mechanism to do that. This is not a Stafford Act over here. We don't have any those emergency support functions. If a hurricane happens, and they have that declaration, what they'll do as part of their response plan will include if oil contamination is of concern that will be added into it. The oil is considered separately right now.

STILMAN: Some of the same agencies that would be here for hurricane or here for the [1:03:56.9 inaudible] or the oil spill including EPA and the Coast Guard. In an oil incident during a hurricane, EPA is in charge of the cleanup. We're given that function. We're in charge of clean up on the inland zone anyway, we're given that function. If there is a contamination incident that's associated with the hurricane, that would be EPA's responsibility to do clean up, to be in charge of training along with OSHA, who would also be here in charge of training.

SANDRA: You might train our groups if we're going to be allowed to participate.

STILMAN: If you would be in an area that has contamination and you have to have a certain amount of training as far as the Stafford Act, activation of OSHA would be here and then most likely will take care of that. EPA would be in charge of any cleanup or decontamination if needed.

(1:04:59.8)

SANDRA: How can we be involved if there is no hurricane? Is there a way?

RESPONDENT: I don't know if this is the right place, but we are working with MEMA, the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency. They do have a 1-800 number. That might be a point of contact. We can write that down for you. That might be at least a place to start here within Mississippi.

[1:05:22.1 inaudible].

ROBERTA: Material training and then be deployed. They'd be managed through that volunteer reception center. So,VOAD is absolutely at the table.

SANDRA: You made sure Mississippi VOAD come out…

ROBERTA: Yes.

DAVE: My name is Dave Tradell. I have a question on some of the oil degradation. Since this is a multi-viscous material and is sitting at 5000 feet. I'm not sure what the water temperature is, I would imagine it's around 38 or 40 degrees around there on the bottom. You addressed earlier that the oil life cycle, what could we expect if the oil were to stop flowing today of revitalization for the material that's on the bottom? Since we're talking about crude, does it degrade at a various rates? Is that going to be reintroduced two, three, four years or continue afterwards?

(1:06:58.9)
AUDIENCE: Would you go back to the Exxon Valdez exactly what happened because of the temperature issues. The Prince George, Prince William Sound Citizen's Advisory Council has a whole lot on there of what they found based on temperature of the life cycle of the oil.

DAVE: I'm guessing, probably about 60 feet. We're talking about 5000 feet to the ocean floor. When it does degrade, there's an absence of bacteria. We count on bacteria to break down the oil. So, as it's going to break down at a slower rate. This could continue for some time. And if it does continue to break down further, let's go back to worst case scenario with the storm surge, is that going to be reintroduced in two, three, four years now if we do a mitigation and we do clean up and we don't see anything for the next couple of years… Five years down the road, are we going to see reintroduction.

[1:08:01.3 inaudible].

AUDIENCE: This is for gentleman from the EPA. There are a number of people who have gotten jobs doing oil cleanup. I was down to the Mississippi Hancock County WIN Center and talked to a number of them. My concern is for job site monitoring. So far, when I have watch those people who were being trained, albeit not that well. They're certainly not getting the respirator training. They're being trained in a very shortened 40-hour HAZWOPER training. My concern is that they're also wearing their boots and everything into McDonald's, they're wearing it in the community. That sounds to me like a a very bad idea to take contamination from a job site and move it into places where children are crawling on the floor. I'm

also concerned about the job site monitoring, who's going to be monitoring the air at those job sites when the oil comes on shore. Because we know when oil moves, for example, it comes on shore, 90-degree heat, it releases VOCs again. Even the tarballs release some. Is that the EPA who'll be the job site monitoring or are those the subcontractors who'll be doing job site monitoring?

TERRY: Essentially, the first line is the employer which is BP. However, having said that, EPA is working with Center for Disease Control to bring in NIOSH folks to do oversight of exactly what you're talking about there. Since there's oil in Louisiana, there's already NIOSH employees in Louisiana. We're bringing in NIOSH folks to do to do the same thing that you're asking about. It's a concern not just for EPA and CDC but also for the Coast Guard to make sure that we're very tight on… while oil is not here yet, we're very tight on worker safety and making sure they're not spreading any contamination outside the work area.

LARRY: I'm not going to speak for any states, but when I started my career after college, I worked as a county sanitarian. Those issues you brought up are very important. I agree with you. There are concerns. The best avenue to report those things would be through your local county health department because they're the ones that have the regulatory authority over the restaurants. Basically, that would be their ***[1:10:37.2 inaudible]***. If restaurants need to put up signs, if you're oil responders that do not bring in any oily clothes to our restaurants. That would be something going back to BP saying, here's the bill we had to pay if someone who comes in and get oil out of our carpets and all that. Your people are bringing it in here. It's a full cycle. There isn't a quick fix. If there's a county inspector or someone, if I walked in and found oil being dragged into a restaurant, that would be the first thing I'd be dealing him for.

AUDIENCE: A follow up question for that would be to the one, you're from Mississippi Department of Health… It sounds to me a great community outreach then to the community would be to make people aware when you go into a restaurant, make the oil spill workers aware also. Maybe two pamphlets put out. If you see this happening, report it. If you're an oil spill worker, don't do it. I have grandchildren, so my mind always goes back to my

grandchildren, not that they crawl on the floor of McDonald's, but children do. They're going to be exposed, especially those of us on beachfront communities where the oil spill worker are going to be coming in and out of our restaurants.

(1:11:50.4)
MODERATOR: That's a good point. We'll bring that back to our environmental department. I don't work in that area. They might be working with our local health departments, but I'm writing notes as we speak. So, thank you.

RESPONDENT: Thank you.

PLEASANT: The other question I have about modeling was the dispersed plume. He was talking about the oil being released to 5000 feet. During that mile of it coming up, you're going to get at lot… I would assume the water is going to reach solubility. You're going to have dissolved plume plus you got the dispersants that's going to disperse the oil creating dispersant plume. My question is, when you go on the NOAA website and you see the maps that show where the plume extent is, I've been assuming that that's the surface spill. Is there a modeling or tracking of the dissolved plume? One specific question would be, has there been water quality samples on the coast to confirm that at this point we're not being hit with the dissolved plume? At least here in Mississippi.

ROBINSON: You raised some very good points. They are very important to us. First of all the fish closure are based upon surface, sheen, oil, where we anticipate the oil going. However, we've heard a lot of questions about so-called subsurface plumes. We have looked. In fact, we are looking for those. Our data today shows that we have a found PPM levels of oil at depth. The majority of that is in the vicinity of the incident itself. That doesn't mean that there aren't other patches of subsurface dispersed oil in places we haven't looked. We have looked in transects that are important for two reasons. One, it coming to shore, and another concern we were trying to address is the entrainment of the subsurface or in the loop currents. We have another transact that we're looking at there. So far, we have had some un-calibrated fluorescence data that shows something below the surface. We have looked at the water samples that show relatively small amounts. We're trying to get the

calibration of those parameters to see what they may have seen based upon the fluorescence signals we saw. Of course, as you know, that signal could be from zooplankton beneath the surface, etc. But, we weren't satisfied with just that. We've actually gone back and collected water samples at depth. We actually have now with EPA and others what we're calling a joint analytical group to try to analyze this data to see to what extent this oil is beneath the surface. So far, so far, we've only found it in the PPM levels. It might be droplets of oil dispersed in a manner that you are describing based on what we've seen as oppose to a plume that we hear about finding there.

PLEASANT: What indicators would you look for? What parts of the crude are most soluble and what tend to travel the farthest?

ROBINSON: We're looking for any sign of…

PLEASANT: Any TPH? Like TPH, total petroleum hydrocarbons.

ROBINSON: Yes.

PLEASANT: Has there been sampling done on the beaches to confirm that there's no dissolved plume or dispersed plume showing up. I've heard a couple of anecdotal references where people went out to the barrier islands, and they said it looked beautiful. We waded out, and we felt like our skin was oiled. We had oil on our skin.

ROBINSON: That in your end, you're not talking about subsurface. Basically, we're talking about surface. If you can wade in it, we wouldn't be surprised if some oil due to wave action is being distributed at that level. The depth, basically, we're trying to figure in more detail is that from a mile down to the surface, away from the coast. Is there something moving out there that we need to be concerned about? That's what we're tracking..

PLEASANT: A follow-up question specifically on the beaches…

(1:16:35.4)
MODERATOR: ***[1:16:35.3 inaudible]***. Is there anyone else who has a question?

AUDIENCE: My question is, will the oil actually hit the Mississippi coast and what are the possibilities of it coming here?

ROBINSON: Yes. We're tracking the oil as we speak. The reason we're here is because there's a distinct possibility that it could make it to the Mississippi coast. We can't tell you when, and we can't tell you how much. Due to the prevailing winds at the moment, there's a very good likelihood that it will make it to the Mississippi coast.

SLATER: What exactly is it doing to the fish out in the gulf? How long after this is over will it be before we can fish again? H.S. Slater.

ROBINSON: Okay. NOAA is responsible for fish closure as I said this morning. We have in collaboration with FDA, EPA and the State Partners, a plan for food safety. Now, what we do, our closes on is based upon visible evidence of all or projections that it might move into areas where fishermen might take fish. The food safety part however has to do with taking actual fish samples and measuring all evidence of oil or contaminants in fish. That is done through our partners at FDA. Until they are confident that fish taken in these impacted areas are free of these contaminants then I got to recommend that these areas be reopened. I can't tell you exactly how long that's going to be. What we all inclined to do in this case is to err on the side of caution with regard to allowing fish impacted by oil to arrive at our marketplaces.

SLATER: This isn't the first time this ever happened. You all have data from the past in other oil, right? This isn't the first time it's ever happened, so you have past data to go with what it did to a certain area and what it did to the wildlife.

ROBINSON: Every situation is different.

SLATER: Yes. There are guidelines you can use.

ROBINSON: There are guidelines…

SLATER: Can you tell me those? That's what I'm asking. Specific information more than generalize we're going to do what we can.

ROBINSON: Okay. The guidelines are very clear for FDA. Any evidence of fish being tainted by oil would suggest that those fish are not able to go into the marketplace. Areas closed will not be allowed to…

(AUDIO ENDS ABRUPTLY)

(End of Part 1)

RESPONDENT: The guidelines are very clear for FDA. Any evidence of fish contaminated by oil would suggest that those fish are not able to go into the marketplace. Areas closed will not be allowed to be opened under those circumstances. They are very specific.

RESPONDENT: Okay. I would assume you all have to have that.

RESPONDENT: We don't know, because we are in the midst of an ongoing spill. We don't have this thing capped yet for anyone could tell you that they know exactly when an area is going to be opened. I think would be a misrepresentation.

AUDIENCE: Our water quality…you're doing the crab sampling it seems pretty regularly and the air quality. Are you doing the same thing with beach water sampling just to see if there's a dissolved ***[0:03:36.2]*** in the water. Is that data also available?

PANELIST: We are doing…I think the states are doing more right now with water quality sampling. EPA is also doing water quality sampling. We're trying to mirror the previous locations to give us information about, so we can compare to the baseline on water and sediment EPA sediments, beach and also out into the Gulf, 40 or 50 feet into the Gulf. The EPA information is available when it comes in on the EPA Web site.

RESPONDENT: You're saying that ppm levels in the water, I got the impression that's more out to sea, towards the spill site, it's not on the beaches or you're actually seeing ppm level of TPH or crude oil constituents on the beaches of ***[0:04:38.3 inaudible]*** islands. At this point you can say at least if there is a dissolved ***[0:04:41.7 inaudible]***, and they've made it to the coast.

RESPONDENT: ***[0:04:50.5 inaudible]***.

RESPONDENT: The sampling includes detectable levels; it's not just high levels or ***[0:05:04.8 inaudible]***. You're looking for detectable levels of TPH.

RESPONDENT: ***[0:05:09.0 inaudible]***.

RESPONDENT: That indicates that there's a dissolved ***[0:05:28.1 inaudible]*** there?

RESPONDENT: ***[0:05:29.7 inaudible]***.

AUDIENCE: This might fall upon the gentleman's question if you may. The Federal Government has set a standard of the barrier or where the fisheries are closed. At some point, this may have come up earlier, but is there a variance between the state standards used and what the federal standards has for the closed offer. This may have come up earlier. I walked in in the middle.

PANELIST: ***[0:06:11.9 inaudible]***. No, I have that authority. I had this with me. I wish I had ***[0:06:34.1 inaudible]*** while I was ***[0:06:35.2 inaudible]***. We do have a pamphlet here about seafood safety that really walks you through some of these details. If in lay person's terms, even I could understand it, as a scientist. I think it's very important to get this in people's hands to have the type of concerns that I'm hearing about seafood safety.

AUDIENCE: Okay. My question was what the standards are in the DMR, MEEQ can be using be using different standards then what NOAA is or CPA as far as…

PANELIST:: I'm not aware of that.

AUDIENCE: ***[0:07:14.1 inaudible]***. Thank you very much.

STEVE: My name is Steve Wenzel, I'm with Green Light Technology. I'm from Alabama. Since day one, I've tried to reach several people, and there's a lot of levels, the RT, the Federal On-site Commander. There's a pre-authorization in placed to okay alternative technology in the time of emergency to clean up crude oil or any kind of mess. But I can't seem to get to that person. It's a little frustrating, I'm a small guy and only half as good looking as Kevin

Costner. I've had some dilemmas and yet what I want you to tell me if you could. Is there someone who I can show, and I'm not a snake oil salesman. But in this bag I have the stuff from out there, what I do to it, and we have eight years of development in this project in our product, and EPA says 90 days. I've more tests than are required for EPA with my toxicity reports by an EPA-approved lab in the United States. I have a global toxic technology lab with all our toxicological studies. Now, I have the test and ongoing some tests currently with what my product does with the current oil that's out there ongoing, because we do clean up the contaminants as well. My question is, can you all give me to the person who can actually say, "Doggone it, you could actually clean up these marshes"?

AUDIENCE: The next question is I'm going to ask several times today, and we don't have ***[0:09:56.0 inaudible]***.

STEVE:

Supposedly I'll meet Mr. Gram tomorrow, so I'm busy. I'm going to head that way, but as I try to help with where it's happening and I keep getting another level, it's been a little frustrating. In the old days when I was as good looking as Kevin Costner, I might have been able to get in there, but I'm a little frustrated. I'll give you my number, and we have a Web site with all our MSDS and everything. I'm just going to show you these two jars. I know all you guys are doing all this testing...Okay, that's all I need. This is what's out there; it's pretty bad. When I mix it with one part of mine, I create a water soluble product. This does not stick anything, your fingers, your hands, plant life, marshes or anything. My product is completely non-toxic, 625 times safer than baby soap and I have proof of that. Yet people don't pay attention.

AUDIENCE: Last question for the gentleman from the EPA, a question for you. When I go on the EPA Web site, it helps me here's all the monitoring stations and I can look on the map and see where they are. When I go to view what the information is from the air quality monitoring station, it gives me the very elaborate text file which somewhere in there contains the information. Is there any chance that you guys are going to give that to us in a converted form or do we have to figure out how to convert that, all those files? Because

literally it's just an ASCII***[0:11:52.7 inaudible]*** file. I checked this morning, and it's still in just raw data form.

TERRY: I guess as we speak we're working on a Google Earth application that actually gives a much better representation. I'm hopeful in a few days, they'll have something. I have also been on the EPA Web site and it is data, it's not roll data it's quality-assured data.

AUDIENCE: Right, but it's on the format that anybody who doesn't know how to read it is going to be able to read. It's all characters.

TERRY: I understand that. Normally when we give out data, we don't give out data on our Web site. When people want data, we give it to them, one-on-one and give you your information. In an effort to give out as much data as we possibly can, that's what you're getting.

AUDIENCE: I think either if we knew how to read it, that's one, or if it was in a format that was already converted, I think it's going to answer a lot of questions that citizens have about what's happening, because when you look at that file, most people are going to look at it close up and go, "I have no idea." There are some people who'll stay with it and try to figure it out, but ultimately I think it would help the air quality concerns you heard here. ***[0:13:23.3 inaudible]*** those down to reasonable because people would feel like okay, they're out there, they're giving me numbers; I understand.

TERRY: I hear your concerns. We're actually meeting with the administrator tomorrow morning to go over a new application that's a lot more user-friendly as long as you have Google Earth, which is a free download. You'll be able to review the data and hope for the next few days you'll see on the Web site as if what you're seeing now. I hear your concern and actually if you can write it down, it will also help out, because we also have the same concern from the field. We have operational maps. That's what you're seeing there. We can look at the data and it makes sense but what gets shipped to the EPA portal are these data files. They are available to anybody who wants some, but as you mentioned they are not as readable as they certainly could be.

(0:14:20.7)
MODERATOR: Okay, great. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: ***[0:14:22.9 inaudible]***.

(0:14:31.4)
MODERATOR: Are there any more questions? We're getting to the point where we're going to wrap up our thoughts. If you think you've got a question, you can hold onto it until the end.

AUDIENCE: ***[0:14:41.2 inaudible]***.

(0:14:50.8)
MODERATOR: I think you did an excellent job. Can we give a round of applause? (Applause.) ***[0:14:56.0 inaudible]***

AUDIENCE: Thank you, sir, I appreciate it.

RESPONDENT: ***[0:15:02.9 inaudible]*** The problem is, I'm…

END OF AUDIO.