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OMB blocked release of oil spill numbers




CongressDaily | October 7, 2010

The [Office of Management and Budget](#) blocked efforts in late April or early May by the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) to reveal worst-case discharge numbers from the Deepwater Horizon well that exploded in the Gulf of Mexico, according to a report from The National Oil Spill Commission appointed by the President Obama.

The report said the federal government's estimates "undermined public confidence," and it criticizes the federal government for creating the impression that it was "either not fully competent to handle the spill or not fully candid with the American people about the scope of the problem."

In a joint statement, the directors of OMB and NOAA did not deny that NOAA's early spill estimate was blocked.

They said preliminary NOAA analysis was incomplete because it did not factor in measures used to control the oil.

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OMB? Why not the Post Office or, better yet, the NIH? I agree with the above poster ... someone else was responsible for these figures not being released ... OMB was just the avenue used to convey the message.

WOB | Posted October 8, 2010 | 9:51 AM

The numbers that were blocked were an "ESTIMATE of a worst case scenario" from NOAA, not ACTUAL numbers. NOAA's chief, Jane Lubchenco, is denying the White House blocked NOAA from releasing any numbers and said that NOAA's modeling of long term movement of the oil was completely independent of efforts to estimate the daily flow rate. The public was already in a state of panic about the disaster, so what possible good could have been achieved by releasing the worst estimate possible? Did anyone dismiss the BP oil leak as inconsequential because they thought the daily flow rate was 210,000 gals/day as opposed to 4 million gals/day? As it turns out it was probably closer to 2.6 million gals/day. No matter what number was used the leak was gushing and the responders knew it was imperative to do everything possible as soon as possible.

David | Posted October 8, 2010 | 9:46 AM

From the commission's website I have pulled its stated purpose: "Examine the facts and circumstances to determine the cause of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Disaster; Develop options for guarding against future oil spills associated with offshore