Redacted: Non-responsive

Oil Spill Prevention and Response NOS-OR&R

The funding for NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration would not allow it to respond to two major spills at the same time, while performing its other duties.

- What level of funding would be necessary to give NOAA the capacity to deal with at least two spills at the same time?

ANSWER: The FY 2010 President's Request includes $19.1M for the Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) base. The request includes a $1.4M program increase to address the most critical shortfalls in NOAA's ability to respond to oil spills and releases of hazardous materials. This includes improvements to innovative response tools, such as the 3-D oil spill model. The $1.4M will support critical NOAA activities mandated by the Oil Pollution Act (OPA), the Superfund Act, and the National Contingency Plan (NCP).

While NOAA does not currently have the capacity to respond to one major (Exxon Valdez class spill) or two simultaneous large oil spills, OR&R continues to provide critical scientific support to numerous oil and chemical spills. In FY 2008, OR&R responded to over 170 events including the DM932 barge incident that spilled nearly 500,000 gallons of fuel oil in the Mississippi River in downtown New Orleans.