

2643865210-49163-18477-137-8

From: Barbara W Wainman <bwainman@usgs.gov>
Sent: Thu, 19 Aug 2010 10:36:10
To: GS FOIA 0134 <foia0134@usgs.gov>
Subject: Fw: Update on Gulf AVIRIS Data Acquisition, Sampling, and Calibration Mission

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----- Forwarded by Barbara W Wainman/DO/USGS/DOI on 08/19/2010 10:35 AM

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Date: 08/19/2010 12:01 AM

Subject: RE: Update on Gulf AVIRIS Data Acquisition, Sampling, and Calibration
Mission

Good plan. I think that this is exactly what we need right now - the broad,
synoptic view to help with the oil budget.

Marcia

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Subject: Update on Gulf AVIRIS Data Acquisition, Sampling, and Calibration Mission

The ER-2 has been repaired much ahead of the original estimate and NASA is sending it to the Gulf. The successful engine test means that NASA will act immediately to get AVIRIS and MASTER shipped to Ellington to be integrated on the ER-2 (shipping takes ~2 days, first flights could be Sunday (8/22) or Monday (8/23)) and NASA will modify the Twin Otter contract to move that campaign in the Gulf to a ~8/31 start).

The AVIRIS will be focused on two questions, first to answer the question of whether some of the "missing" oil might in fact simply be hard-to-see oil, very thin, but widespread across the Gulf. The second question is on the amount of near-shore and beached oil in the marshes. Although the ER-2 returns lower-resolution data, it is capable of flying very long traverses over the Gulf and the entirety of the impacted coast in single flight giving us a overview at a single point in time. As always, weather will be a limiting factor, but the forecasts are good, so we are hopeful.

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I will send along information as I have it.

Vic