

Thank you all for coming here today on such short notice.

One week ago, I issued a subpoena to Exxon Mobil for inspection records, investigative documents and maintenance records related to its 65-year-old, Pegasus pipeline which runs through our state from Randolph County in northeast Arkansas to Little River County in the southwest corner of our State.

In addition, I specifically demanded documents and records related to the portion of the Pegasus pipeline that ruptured in Mayflower, as well as information regarding the March 29 oil spill that impacted the residents of

Mayflower and Arkansas's citizens and environment.

Today, we received 12,587 pages of documents that are responsive to our demands. That includes five CDs of data and more than 200 blueprint-sized diagrams. We received these documents 45 minutes ago. Lawyers and investigators are reviewing them as we speak.

More documents will be received and requested from Exxon in coming days, but for now everyone's priority continues to be the cleanup and recovery efforts.

Let me tell you what is next for the Attorney General's Office. We will evaluate the records we have received in response to

the subpoena. We will continue our independent investigation into the cause and impact of the spill; in fact, investigators from my office have been on site three different times already this week to collect additional evidence and data.

We are communicating consistently with Exxon, the Department of Transportation, the EPA, the state Department of Health, the Game and Fish Commission and the Department of Environmental Quality. We appreciate the efforts of all the parties involved in this cleanup and recovery effort.

Today, I retained the assistance of Witt O'brien's, a firm whose experts will immediately begin an independent analysis of the cleanup process. They will be on site tomorrow.

Former FEMA director and Arkansas native James Lee Witt and his staff bring world-class experience and a personal love for Arkansas. I am thankful for their help. I am also retaining a group of technical advisors to provide us with independent air sampling and other scientific data.

I have requested four million dollars from Exxon to immediately establish a fund to pay for the state's investigative expenses. This is consistent with federal

law and the approach taken by attorneys general on the Gulf coast, who were advanced \$175 million from the responsible party in that case, BP.

I said last week that I continue to have more questions than answers. I can share with you that the pipeline rupture is substantially larger than many of us initially thought. The rupture itself was more than 22 feet long. 22 feet, 3 ½ inches long and two inches wide, to be precise.

We do not know what caused such a catastrophic breach in this pipeline's integrity. We still do not know how much oil was released. We still do not know the exact make-up of the crude itself or the

chemical solvents used in the transportation process.

Our immediate concern tonight is with the weather. As we speak, there are tornado watches and warnings for that area of the state. There are containers of oil-saturated soil and barrels of oil-contaminated water that are being held in a staging area.

We have reviewed the weather response plan and I have contacted the Department of Emergency Management. In addition to the risk of tornados in proximity to the staging area, I am concerned about the effect that heavy rainfall may have on

dispersing the oil that has not been removed.

We are watching the weather closely and communicating with necessary officials. I have been assured that the oil containers should be secure, even in a tornado.

Finally, my office is committed to looking at ways to prevent incidents like this from ever occurring again. It is my hope that, through our investigation, we can identify and implement means by which Arkansans will be protected from future problems from this and other aging pipelines.

Thank you. I'll be happy to take your questions.

