ASSESSING HEALTH EFFECTS TO HUMAN RECEPTORS BASED ON AIR QUALITY OF REGIONS AFFECTED BY GULF COAST OIL SPILL

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Abstract: Disasters can pose damaging long term mental/health effects. The BP Gulf Coast 2010 oil spill caused major air quality concern for residents and off-shore workers along the US Gulf Coast. This study consists of current literature including data from the Oil Spill Surveillance Summary Report, which reports exposure levels of residents and workers, and the National Ambient Air Quality Standard, which monitors the level of contaminant exposure from normal to hazardous quality. Various chemicals were documented, however, Particulate Matter (PM2.5) was chosen as the focal point of this study. A level of uncertainty can be assessed based on the length of time of exposure to the residents. There is a growing concern with considering the short term and long term health effects acquired from the oil spill. The full scale of human health effects of this disaster remains unknown. Based on the data from previous oil spills, the health consequences for workers and residents can be compared to previous studies.