

U.S. EPA Response to BP Oil Spill

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U.S. EPA Providing Support to U.S. Coast Guard-led Federal Response

- collecting samples along the shoreline and beyond for chemicals related to oil and dispersants in the air, water and sediment;
- supporting and advising Coast Guard efforts to clean the reclaimed oil and waste from the shoreline; and
- closely monitoring the effects of dispersants in the subsurface environment.

Water Sampling Approach

- Three Rounds
 - Pre-spill (completed)
 - Post-spill (currently on-going)
 - Recovery (long-term)
- Collecting and posting water, sediment, dispersant data daily
 - <http://www.epa.gov/bpspill>

Pre-spill Sampling

- Determine baseline and pre-spill conditions
- 2000 – 2006 NCCA GOM data used to set historic baseline
 - Over 800 near shore, estuarine sites
 - Parent PAHs (fish, sediment), metals (sediment), toxicity (sediment), benthic macroinvertebrates
 - Defines area of extent/percent of sites with historic contamination
- Leading edge sampling by Regions 4 and 6
 - Near shore, estuarine waters, beaches

Post-spill Sampling

- Began once oil hit shoreline
 - Determine if oil related contaminants are present
 - Determine impact of oil on water quality and ecological conditions in the Gulf
- Regional plans include alkyl PAHs, dispersants, water toxicity testing
- Enhance NCCA sampling parameters this summer to document the effects of the spill

Long-term Impacts and Recovery Sampling

- Determine if contaminants are accumulating over time, causing changes to biological communities
 - Localized and/or widespread changes?
- Use enhanced NCCA design to document impacts
 - Increase sampling frequency
 - Intensify sampling in impacted areas
 - Add additional oil-specific parameters

U.S. EPA Involvement Provides

- Geographic coverage
- Temporal coverage
 - Historic and pre-impact sampling data
- Benchmarks
 - Interpret and report results against risk-based thresholds and historical & pre-impact conditions
- Parameter coverage
- Report of Baseline Conditions (Fall 2010)

Current and Future Coordination with Other Federal Agencies

- Sampling locations/sites
 - Incorporate NCA/NCCA sites into sampling design
- Share post-impact, decontamination, and health and safety protocols
- Advocate certain indicators to sample
- Coordinate the collection and sharing of data