

# DEEP WATER COALITION NEWS

another Canary in a Coalmine Production

## THE COR-EXIT PLAN

When Louisiana residents ask **marine toxicologist and community activist Riki Ott** what she would do if she lived in the Gulf with children, she tells them she would leave immediately. "It's that bad. We need to start talking about who's going to pay for evacuations."

In 1989, Ott, who lives in Cordova, Alaska, experienced firsthand the devastating effects of the Exxon Valdez oil disaster. For the past two months, she's been traveling back and forth between Louisiana and Florida to gather information about what's really happening and share the lessons she learned about long-term illnesses and deaths of cleanup workers and residents. **In late May, she began meeting people in the Gulf with symptoms like headaches, dizziness, sore throats, burning eyes, rashes and blisters that are so deep, they're leaving scars.** People are asking, "What's happening to me?"

She says the culprit is almost **two million gallons of the neurotoxin pesticide Corexit**, the *dispersant* BP is using to break up and hide the oil below the ocean's surface. "It's an industrial solvent. It's a degreaser. It's chewing up boat engines off-shore. It's chewing up dive gear on-shore. Of course it's chewing up people's skin. The doctors are saying the solvents are making the oil worse."

In addition to **Riki Ott** other scientists are also coming forward to raise the alarm about Corexit including **Dr. Susan Shaw** a world renowned marine toxicologists who has told CNN that *Gulf fisherman merely splashed with water containing oil dispersed with Corexit suffered from multiple symptoms including heart palpitations and rectal bleeding.*

\* NOAA has chosen to use a risk of cancer threshold of 1 in 100,000 were many toxicity guidelines call for 1 in a million. Such a low threshold could potentially lead to thousands of cancer cases.

\* The guidelines only consider the risk of cancer from contamination and fail to include risk assessments for other chronic illnesses that can be caused by oil and dispersants such as internal hemorrhaging, kidney failure, and damage to other internal organs.

\* The decision to reopen the waters was done with out any testing for the neurotoxin pesticide dispersant Corexit that BP has been spraying into the Gulf. To be fair the Government is not testing any seafood harvested from the Gulf for exposure to Corexit. On the other hand NOAA has admitted that Corexit may be in Gulf Seafood.

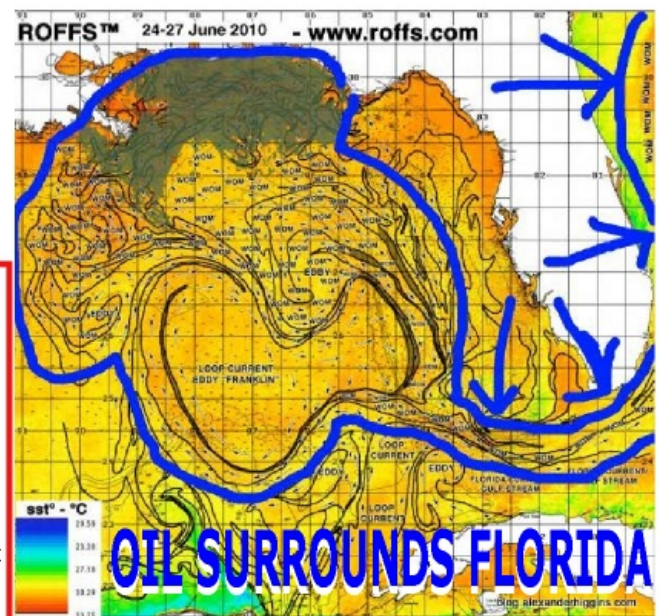
\* The Government only requires that 70% of the seafood tested to pass the smell and taste test for oil meaning that 30% of the seafood can contain oil odors or flavors and still pass the test.

\* The protocol allows for samples from multiple fish to be combined into a single sample for testing. While this may allow for an accurate statistical analysis of the risk of cancer to the entire population it does not ensure that the fish are not contaminated.



On Tuesday, Mother Jones' Kate Sheppard reported that **Hugh Kaufman, a whistleblower who works as a senior policy analyst in the EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response,** is accusing the agency of *deliberately downplaying public health threats and its own role in regulating the chemicals being dumped into the Gulf "to protect itself from liability and keep the public from getting too alarmed."*

I further reported on the same Hugh Kaufman story pointing out that he is a top level EPA official warning that the Federal Government is covering up the lethality of Corexit and lying about water samples to help save BP billions of dollars in fines.



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<http://www.AveryVoice.com>

# COREXIT

not gone, not forgotten

Christina Gagnier - 909.576.1411

Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana—Area residents have begun to show up at clinics and hospitals with mysterious scabs and pustules covering their extremities, as reported from residents to non-profit relief organizations in the Gulf.

One thirty-three year-old woman, who wished to remain anonymous, has disclosed to Project Gulf Impact that upon seeking medical advice at a clinic, she was told she had scabies. Hours later, she was told by an area hospital that she had a staph infection. The woman was treated with a shot of penicillin and Elimite cream, a topical agent for the treatment of scabies mite infestations, and an oral antibiotic. In addition to the lesions, the woman reported aching bones, weight loss, stomach pains, inflammation in her leg and sties developing in her eyes.

Exposure to chemicals, such as those being used to break down oil in the region, like the dispersant, Corexit, may be the cause of such infections. Corexit is an agent that has been proven to break down lipid membranes, which cover and protect human skin.

Human skin is composed of a thin layer of lipids and Corexit, by nature, breaks down these organized barriers into smaller individual molecules allowing the barrier to become permeable to pathogens.



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BP Oil Spill Health Emergency. Corexit Being Sp...



[www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FxfYqnlQ50&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FxfYqnlQ50&feature=player_embedded)

**ABOVE:** Terry Hazen, a PhD micro-biologist at Lawrence Berkley Lab who has studied oil spills extensively, cited the example of the massive Amoco-Cadiz spill off the coast of France. Five years after the spill, the coastline had returned to normal in areas that had been left untreated. **But 32 years later,** the areas that had been treated with dispersants, at great expense, **have yet to recover.** Marine toxicologist, Riki Ott, author of "Not One Drop: Betrayal and Courage in the Wake of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill," says that these harmful chemicals that can linger in the water for decades, are not adequately tested by the EPA.

Read more:

[www.triplepundit.com/2010/07/bp-gulf-disaster-act-two-the-corexitcalamity/#ixzz0vCEqmTX4](http://www.triplepundit.com/2010/07/bp-gulf-disaster-act-two-the-corexitcalamity/#ixzz0vCEqmTX4)

The skin irritation could be caused by prolonged exposure to these chemicals and could break down the ability of the body to fight off infection.

Economic conditions in the Gulf have left many people without health insurance, leaving them with little recourse in terms of medical care. Noted Marine toxicologist and Exxon Valdez survivor Riki Ott first reported the effects of dispersants on July 7, 2010 in The Huffington Post.



<http://www.projectgulfimpact.org/>