

FRANK R. LAUTENBERG

NEW JERSEY

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION

ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 28, 2010

Gina McCarthy
Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation
Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Bldg
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Ms. McCarthy:

I am writing to ask for your immediate action to protect public health from the air quality effects of the massive oil slick emanating from the sunken Deepwater Horizon oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico. In addition to the clear threat to the coastal ecosystem and coastal economy as the slick approaches land, I fear that air pollution from the oil on the surface of the Gulf will affect the environment and human health. That fear has been exacerbated by the Coast Guard's announced plan to begin burning portions of the oil slick, which could intensify air pollution in the area and lead to dangerous levels of particulate matter and hazardous air pollutants. Gulf Coast families have a right to know how this massive oil spill is affecting the air they breathe.

I ask that you immediately begin comprehensive monitoring of air pollution levels across the affected region and fully inform the public of dangerous conditions. I also ask that you work with state and local governments to help ensure that the health effects of this unfortunate disaster are minimized.

Sincerely,

