UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
Office of Response and Restoration
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

March 19, 2012

Claudette Juska
Greenpeace
702 H Street NW Suite 300
Washington, DC 20001

RE: FOIA REQUEST #2010-0522

Ms. Juska,

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request # 2010-00522 dated July 30, 2010, and received by our office on August 8, 2010. You specifically requested:

- Details of meetings and correspondence within NOAA and between NOAA and BP regarding underwater and subsurface plumes.

NOAA initiated a call with your organization and spoke with Mr. Kert Davies on January 27, 2012 to review the status of this request in light of your organization's current needs and updated available information. As we discussed, since the date of your request, much data and analysis has been generated and made available to the public related to underwater and subsurface plumes. A partial list of currently available data and reports related to underwater and subsurface plumes is provided below:

07-29-2011 OSAT Summary Report
http://www.restorethegulf.gov/release/2011/07/29/osat-summary-report-sub-sea-and-sub-surface-oil-and-dispersant-detection-ecotoxic

12-17-2011 Final OSAT report
http://www.restorethegulf.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/OSAT_Report_FINAL_17DEC.pdf

12-16-2011 Information about the OSAT Report
http://www.restorethegulf.gov/release/2010/12/16/data-analysis-and-findings

10-02-2010 Subsurface Oil Monitoring Overview
http://www.restorethegulf.gov/release/2010/10/02/subsurface-oil-monitoring-overview

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The Joint Analysis Group, an interagency panel, comprised of scientists from NOAA, EPA, and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, was created to coordinate information about subsurface sampling related to the Deepwater Horizon/BP oil spill. Their reports are as follows:

Administration's Joint Analysis Group Releases First Scientific Report on Subsea Monitoring data from Gulf Spill – A peer-reviewed, inter-agency report about *Brooks McCall* subsurface monitoring near the Deepwater Horizon wellhead, May 8-25, released on June 23.

http://service.ncddc.noaa.gov/rdn/www/activities/healthy-oceans/jag/reports/documents/JAG_Report_Brooks_McCall_final.pdf

Second Federal Analysis Gives Further Clues about Location and Movement of Subsurface Oil - A peer-reviewed, inter-agency report about subsurface monitoring near the Deepwater Horizon wellhead based on data collected by the R/V *Brooks McCall*, R/V *Ocean Veritas*, R/V *Walton Smith*, NOAA Ship *Thomas Jefferson* and NOAA Ship *Gordon Gunter*, May 19-June 19, released on July 23.

http://service.ncddc.noaa.gov/rdn/www/activities/healthy-oceans/jag/reports/documents/JAG_Data_Report_2_FINAL.pdf

Data Supplement to Joint Analysis Group Report 2 - The Joint Analysis Group Report 2 published on July 23, 2010 reported on data collected between May 19 and June 19, 2010. This supplement extends those data to July 13, 2010. The figures in this supplement should be interpreted in the context of the July 23, 2010 report.

http://service.ncddc.noaa.gov/rdn/www/activities/healthy-oceans/jag/reports/documents/JAG_Data_Report_2_Figure_Update_Finala.pdf

Instrument drift check procedures for CDOM Fluorometers at the Deepwater Horizon Site - This quick-response, time sensitive data report presents guidance for at sea operations. The report contains the JAG recommendation for best practices for checks against instrument drift for WetLabs Eco CDOM Instruments.

http://service.ncddc.noaa.gov/rdn/www/activities/healthy-oceans/jag/reports/documents/CDOM_Instrument_Check_Procedure_Final.pdf

Initial Quality Control of Analytical Chemistry Data - This report describes the initial quality control of analytical chemistry reported for samples collected by the R/V *Brooks McCall* through station 117 and the R/V *Ocean Veritas* through station 105, including the analytical data

http://service.ncddc.noaa.gov/rdn/www/activities/healthy-oceans/jag/reports/documents/Chemistry_report_QA_QC_Summary_V7.pdf

Third Federal Analysis Examines Dissolved Oxygen Concentrations Near Wellhead - This peer-reviewed, interagency report presents a comprehensive examination of preliminary data on dissolved oxygen concentrations near the site of the BP Deepwater Horizon incident. Data were collected by the NOAA Ship *Gordon Gunter*, NOAA Ship *Henry Bigelow,* NOAA Ship *Nancy Foster*, NOAA Ship *Thomas Jefferson*, R/V *Brooks McCall,* R/V *Ferrel,* R/V *Jack Fitz*, R/V *Ocean Veritas*, and R/V *Walton Smith*, May 8-Aug. 9, released on Sept. 7

http://www.noaa.gov/sciencemissions/PDFs/JAG_Oxygen_Report%20(FINAL%20090410).pdf

In addition, the NOAA library continues to compile an extensive collection of material, technical reports, and articles related to the oil spill. Several documents include information on subsurface plumes with NOAA co-authors. One example is below:

Adcroft A, Hallberg R, Dunne JP, Samuels BL, Galt JA, Barker CH, Payton D. 2010. Simulations of underwater plumes of dissolved oil in the Gulf of Mexico. Geophysical Research Letters 37.

You can access all of the NOAA Library documents here:
http://www.lib.noaa.gov/researchtools/subjectguides/dwh.html

We understand and value the public interest in this matter. We are striving to maintain as much transparency as possible while protecting the integrity of the case and fulfilling our critical mission to protect, preserve, and restore the Nation's natural resources.

Based on our conversation, we anticipate that the materials above will satisfy your request for information related to underwater and subsurface plumes. Please let us know if feel this material

does not satisfy your request. If you we do not hear from you by April 19, 2012, then we will close this request.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, you may contact our FOIA manager, Greg Bridges, at 301-713-2989, by email at Greg.Bridges@noaa.gov, or by mail at:

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Sincerely,

David Westerholm
Director