

Statement

GREENPEACE

Corexit is not the solution: it's just another problem

28 July 2016 (Toronto) – Following Ottawa's [recent approval](#) of the use of the chemical dispersant COREXIT in Canadian waters to respond to oil spills, Greenpeace Canada Campaigner Alex Speers-Roesch said:

“There is extensive evidence from the disastrous BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and subsequent research that dispersants actually increase the damage caused by oil spills, and it is highly irresponsible of the government to ignore this evidence and quietly approve COREXIT as they have. COREXIT contains hazardous chemicals whose toxicity can increase when combined with oil, resulting in potentially greater and longer-lasting harm to wildlife and the entire ecosystem.

“The oil industry likes COREXIT because it is cheap and helps break up oil blobs to make them smaller and less noticeable. But allowing the oil industry to dump toxic chemicals into our oceans that actually increase harm in order to reduce the visual impact of spills while increasing the overall toxicity is simply unacceptable.

“The government claims COREXIT will only be used if it is likely to reduce the overall harm from a spill, but they have set no standards for how this is to be decided and left everything to the discretion of the offshore regulatory boards, despite a disturbing record of being overly cozy with industry. They have not even shown that COREXIT can be relied upon to reduce the damage from oil spills, let alone restrict its use to those situations.

“The government should reverse its approval of COREXIT immediately and restore the ban on the release of this hazardous substance into Canadian waters.”

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For more information:

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Notes

More information on the environmental impacts of the use of COREXIT in responding to oil spills can be found in the following:

- <http://thetyee.ca/News/2016/07/18/Ottawa-Approves-Corexit/>
- Study finding mixing COREXIT with oil increases toxicity 52 times:
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0269749112004344>
- A review of recent literature related to oil spill dispersants by oil spill expert Merv Fingas:
<http://www.pwsrcc.org/programs/environmental-monitoring/dispersants/dispersant-literature-reviews/>