

# First' Dispersant Study Funded by Feds: The Corexit "did NOT degrade"... "It didn't go away" — May not have even broken up the oil

JANUARY 26TH, 2011 AT 04:27 PM

23

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[News Release : First Study of Dispersants in Gulf Spill Suggests a Prolonged Deepwater Fate](#), Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, January 26, 2011:

To combat last year's Deepwater Horizon oil spill, nearly 800,000 gallons of chemical dispersant were injected directly into the oil and gas flow coming out of the wellhead nearly one mile deep in the Gulf of Mexico. Now, as scientists begin to assess how well the strategy worked at breaking up oil droplets, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) chemist Elizabeth B. Kujawinski and her colleagues report that a major component of the dispersant itself was contained within an oil-gas-laden plume in the deep ocean and **had still not degraded some three months after it was applied.** ...

**"We don't know if the dispersant broke up the oil,"** she added. "We found that **it didn't go away**, and that was somewhat **surprising.**" ...

The work was funded by WHOI and the National Science Foundation. The instrumentation was funded by the National Science Foundation and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. ...

"Over 290,000 kg, or 640,000 pounds, of DOSS was injected into the deep ocean from April to July," she said. "That's a staggering amount, especially when you consider that this compound comprises only 10% of the total dispersant that was added." ...

"The good news is that the dispersant stayed in the deep ocean after it was first applied," Kujawinski says. "The bad news is that it stayed in the deep ocean and did not degrade."