



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**  
HALEY BARBOUR, GOVERNOR  
**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**  
Trudy D. Fisher, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **MDEQ RELEASES PECAN GROVE LANDFILL SAMPLE RESULTS**

(JACKSON, Miss.) – The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) released results Friday of oil cleanup waste sampled at the Pecan Grove Landfill in Harrison County. The results showed that the tar ball-like material was non-detect for the crude oil components that are considered to be hazardous--metals, and volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds.

MDEQ received the results from the contract lab on July 14 for material sampled on July 9. The samples were analyzed using the Toxicity Characteristics Leaching Procedure guidelines established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (A copy of the results is available on MDEQ's website at:

[http://www.deq.state.ms.us/MDEQ.nsf/pdf/Main\\_MSDEQTCLPDeepwaterHorizon1007119Final/\\$File/MS%20DEQ%20TCLP%20Deepwater%20Horizon%201007119%20FINAL%20007%2014%2010%201553.pdf?OpenElement](http://www.deq.state.ms.us/MDEQ.nsf/pdf/Main_MSDEQTCLPDeepwaterHorizon1007119Final/$File/MS%20DEQ%20TCLP%20Deepwater%20Horizon%201007119%20FINAL%20007%2014%2010%201553.pdf?OpenElement)). BP is required to conduct

sampling of the waste material as part of the Unified Command solid waste management plan to determine whether the cleanup waste is hazardous. However, MDEQ conducted its own sampling to confirm that debris at the landfill is nonhazardous.

“The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality is fulfilling its obligations to ensure that the debris from the oil spill cleanup which is going to the Pecan Grove Landfill is not a hazardous material and adheres to the regulations and guidelines established by EPA and the State of Mississippi. We will review the sampling results from BP and Waste Management, and we will continue to verify their results with independent testing. In addition, MDEQ staff is onsite at the landfill to monitor the deposition of debris. The information released today is what we expected, based on our previous analyses of tar balls and tar patties from the beaches, but we will remain vigilant to make sure citizens' health is protected and that the work is being done properly,” said Trudy Fisher, MDEQ Executive Director.

The samples were collected by MDEQ staff from a staged roll-off box at the Pecan Grove Landfill on July 9. Two plastic bags containing oiled material were selected at random, each bag was opened, samples were collected using appropriate sampling protocols, and sample containers were transported to the contract lab using appropriate Chain of Custody procedures.

More information and links about MDEQ's and DMR's roles in oil spill response are available at [www.deq.state.ms.us/oilspill](http://www.deq.state.ms.us/oilspill) and [www.dmr.state.ms.us/DMR/oil-spill.htm](http://www.dmr.state.ms.us/DMR/oil-spill.htm). Water sampling information is available at: <http://opcgis.deq.state.ms.us/oilspillmap> and air monitoring data at: <http://gulfcoast.airnowtech.org>.

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