Key Findings:

1. Recently collected weathered oil samples showed 86-98 percent depletion of total polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).

2. Risk of leaching from supratidal buried oil into groundwater is minimal due to the combined effects of weathering, biodegradation, and the location of the buried oil.

3. In most locations, models predict PAH concentrations in supratidal buried oil will decrease to 20% of current levels within 5 years. However, there are isolated conditions where PAH concentrations are predicted to persist substantially longer.

4. Calculated potential cancer and non-cancer health effects from short and long-term exposures are below U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) acceptable health-based risk and hazard levels.

5. Aquatic and wildlife resources would likely experience a greater threat from further cleanup beyond established guidelines than from the oil that still remains on the beaches.

6. Two particular routes of exposure posed potentially elevated risks to aquatic and wildlife resources:

    a. Ingestion of SSRBs by adult, subsurface-probing shore birds. Further study of the feeding habits of these birds in the presence of SSRBs will provide information to further evaluate risk.

    b. Contact between buried oil and sea turtle eggs and hatchlings. This is due to the combination of their endangered status, the possibility of buried oil interfering with nesting turtles, and that eggs could be in direct contact with residual oil. Active monitoring of turtle nesting and knowledge supratidal buried oil (such as location, thickness, and consistency) can be used to develop mitigation strategies.