Reviewer's report

Title: Spatial Disparity in the Distribution of Superfund Sites in South Carolina: An Ecological Study

Version: 1 Date: 15 June 2013

Reviewer: Omega Wilson

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Minor Essential Revisions: (The author can be trusted to make these. For example, missing labels on figures, the wrong use of a term, spelling mistakes.)

1. ABSTRACT: Background: The authors referenced: "Twenty-six sites in South Carolina (SC) have been included on the National Priorities List (NPL) which has serious human health and environmental implications. The purpose of this study was to assess spatial disparities in the distribution of Superfund facilities in SC." It would seem appropriate to include a map figure of the 26 NPL sites as the authors included Choropleth maps to describe the distribution patterns of Superfund sites.

2. DISCUSSION and CONCLUSION: Reference "5 - Department of Justice: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964" for the section on Environmental Justice paragraph #2 quotes " A 2007 study by O'Neil [2] examined the relationship between environmental remediation and environmental justice by evaluating the impact of Executive Order 12898 [4-5] on the Superfund listing and cleanup process." However, there are no specific mention(s) or outline of corrective actions or mitigation steps that may be employed by impacted residents or there representative community-based organizations (CBOs). It seems appropriate to speak directly to how collaborative partnerships between CBOs and the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) may be able to use the results of this study in its efforts to prioritize sites in vulnerable communities and leverage state resources to remediate the superfund and NPL sites.

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: It seems appropriate to generally reference support and collaboration with impacted residents and/or there representative community-based organizations (CBOs).

4. REFERENCES - spell checks: 8. Enviornmental (Environmental); 10. volitle (volatile) and Superfundsites (Superfund sites); 31. lowincome (low-income).

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'