Reviewer's report

**Title:** Meteorologically estimated exposure but not distance predicts asthma symptoms in schoolchildren in the environs of a petrochemical refinery: a cross-sectional study

**Version:** 2 **Date:** 28 July 2009

**Reviewer:** Nilsa I Loyo-Berrios

**Reviewer’s report:**

Previous question no. 3 related to the high prevalence of smoking in study area. The authors response includes a statement that they have no smoking prevalence data for the comparison area. The fact that smoking prevalence was high in adults and children in the study area and that no such data is available for the control area, should be specifically raised as one of the main study limitations. This should be clearly mentioned in the discussion. Smoking and exposure to second hand smoking are well known factors that exacerbate asthma. The have a general statement about confounding factors, but that is not sufficient. They need to present detail discussion of what those confounders factors are, specially smoking.

**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.