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British Petroleum

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PHI 445: Personal & Organizational Ethics

Instructor Suzanne Humphrey

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Introduction

Oil and gas<sup>1</sup> industry can be a dirty business since drilling projects operate 24 hrs. They can cause disruptions to wildlife, human health, and water pollution among others. The accident that occurred in 2010 in the gulf in Mexico is show how<sup>2</sup> dangerous oil and gas drilling can be hazardous to the environment. British petroleum, among the biggest Deep-water drilling old<sup>3</sup> companies in the world, has triggered some environmental disasters during its extractions. On April 20, 2010, the accident<sup>5</sup> triggered the worst environmental disaster in America history. There were a gas release and explosion that occurred on the Deepwater Horizons oil rig. The explosion killed about 11 workers, 17 were injured and about 205 million gallons of oil dumped into the<sup>6</sup> Gulf of Mexico.<sup>4</sup>

British Petroleum is more focused on saving production cost and undertaking unnecessary risk, rather than taking into consideration activities that are not only safe and environmentally friendly for the company but also the surrounding environment.<sup>7</sup> After the Deepwater Horizon disaster in 2010, the U.S government came up with a set of laws and regulation to control oil drilling activities and ensure that the environment is protected. The new rules tightened control on blowout preventers, industry-standard equipment which is the last line of protection that seeks to stop explosions on the undersea oil and gas. The rules also had tougher requirements on designing underwater wells and ensuring the wells had lining coats and finally monitoring of subsea drilling and spill containment. The new regulation would also oversee annual assessments by outside organization of the mechanical integrity of blowout preventers.<sup>8</sup>

Ethical Theory

1. **Oil and gas**  
The oil and gas industry . . .  
[Suzanne Humphrey]

2. **is show how**  
shows how hazardous oil and gas drilling can be to . . .  
[Suzanne Humphrey]

3. **old**  
oil [Suzanne Humphrey]

4. **April 20, 2010, the accident triggered the worst environmental disaster in America history**  
**There were a gas release and explosion that occurred on the Deepwater Horizons oil rig. The explosion killed about 11 workers, 17 were injured and about 205 million gallons of oil dumped into the**  
**Gulf of Mexico.**  
Where did you find this information? [Suzanne Humphrey]

5. **the accident**  
an explosion [Suzanne Humphrey]

6. **were a**  
was [Suzanne Humphrey]

7. **British Petroleum is more focused on saving production cost and undertaking unnecessary risk, rather than taking into consideration activities that are not only safe and environmentally friendly for the company but also the surrounding environment.**  
The thesis statement is okay [Suzanne Humphrey]

8. Deepwater Horizon disaster in 2010, the U.S government came up with a set of laws and regulation to control oil drilling activities and ensure that the environment is protected. The new rules tightened control on blowout preventers, industry-standard equipment which is the last line of protection that seeks to stop explosions on the undersea oil and gas. The rules also had tougher

requirements on designing underwater wells and ensuring the wells had lining coats and finally monitoring of subsea drilling and spill containment. The new regulation would also oversee annual assessments by outside organization of the mechanical integrity of blowout preventers.  
You need to cite the source of this information. [Suzanne Humphrey]



Oil drilling is not environmental friendly. Duty ethics require<sup>1</sup> one to put consideration<sup>2</sup> of the other people's welfare and avoid doing wrong things to others. British companies show little obligation to the environment oil drilling whether an accident occurs or not puts<sup>3</sup> the life of marine animals and people who benefit economically from the ocean at risk. Companies such as British Petroleum company to care for the environmental<sup>4</sup> and the people living around their operational field. Five years ago, the Deepwater Horizon in the Gulf of Mexico exploded living about ten workers dead and others with injuries. The accident did not only cost the lives of people but significantly affected the environment, and the accident is the important indication of the dangers of oil drilling on water bodies (Palmer, 2015).

The spillage had a significant impact on marine, with at least eight of U.S national parks<sup>5</sup> threaten. More than 400 species were in danger especially those that lived in the Gulf Islands and the marshlands. The oil from the disaster affected about 1300 miles of the United States coastline located on the Gulf of Mexico. The heavy PLL age also resulted in the death of vegetation on the coastlines. During the oil clean ups, they were a lot of damage to the environment. Toxic chemicals such as polycyclic and aromatic hydrocarbons were components of oil, the two chemicals are the very risk to humans they are associated with causing cancer, and finally, animals that came into contact with polycyclic died immediately. The incident proves of what oil drilling can impact the environment and the divesting effects of oil spillage if cautions are not taken during extraction of oil and fuel.<sup>6</sup>

Oil spillage that occurred in Deepwater Horizons is evidence of the harm oil drilling can have on the environment. The spillage caused a death of wildlife and pollution of sea water. In 2011, half of the dolphins were compromised with lung disease this according to a study by NOAA (Lawrence W. Smith, 2014). The study reported that the lung disease was as a result of

1. **require**  
requires [Suzanne  
Humphrey]

2. **put consideration**  
to consider the other people  
welfare . . . [Suzanne  
Humphrey]

3. **obligation to the  
environment oil drilling  
whether an accident occurs  
or not puts**

This needs to be reworded.  
is missing words or there are  
grammar mistakes.  
[Suzanne Humphrey]

4. **company to care for the  
environmental**

company should care for . . .  
You are missing something  
the sentence. [Suzanne  
Humphrey]

5. **marine,**  
marine life [Suzanne  
Humphrey]

6. The spillage had a significant impact on marine, with at least eight of U.S national parks

threaten. More than 400 species were in danger especially those that lived in the Gulf Islands and the marshlands. The oil from the disaster affected about 1300 miles of the United States coastline located on the Gulf of Mexico. The heavy PLL age also resulted in the death of vegetation on the coastlines. During the oil clean ups, they were a lot of damage to the environment. Toxic

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You need a citation for this information. [Suzanne  
Humphrey]

toxic exposure to oil. 20% of the dolphins were so ill and were not expected to survive. The number of turtles found stranded more than 1,700 compared to only 240 found in a normal year. Also 930 dolphins and whales were found stranded, 2010-2013 compared to only 20 in normal years. Seabirds were harmed by the surface oil resulting to inability to fly, swim which made it difficult to find food. To replace other species such ducks and other birds have placed on rice fields that were not in use.

#### Premises

After three months of the spillage incident, there was an estimation of over 130 million gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico. Making the spillage the largest accidental ocean spill.<sup>1</sup> After the oil left the well it floated on the surface of the ocean which spread due to the wind. During the spill<sup>2</sup> about 22-mile oil, plume was reported. The use of chemical dispersants resulted to water mixing oil, and it remained suspended on the surface while some oil sunk to the seafloor by attaching itself together with particles in the water there was a formation of marine snow. The result of spillage was damaging of the ecosystem and deep sea coral.

Different sectors were affected by the spillage they included tourism, fishing, and hospitality. Species in the Gulf are expected to be affected by the accidental and the quality of marine life is supposed to go back to its normal status after a few generation. The seafood harvest also dropped after the incident. The government of United States put regulation and rules to governor oil drilling that companies such as the British Petroleum are supposed to adhere to<sup>3</sup> prevent similar cases from ever happening gain (Palmer, 2015).

#### Comparative Analysis

##### 1. Making the spillage the largest accidental ocean spill.

This is an incomplete sentence. [Suzanne Humphrey]

##### 2. spill

Add a comma after spill and add "a" after about. [Suzanne Humphrey]

##### 3. adhere to

adhere to to . . . [Suzanne Humphrey]

The virtue theory states for any properly functioning business, they must have virtues such as justice, courage, honesty, and self-control among others. If British Petroleum uses the different virtues when carrying their activities, they are likely to put more consideration on the effects their operations have on the environment and how they affect people living in the areas around sites (Arjoon, 2000). Oil drilling would ensure that the environment is taken care and human beings and other creatures are protected during the extraction processes. Use of virtue theory will ensure oil drilling companies are open about the extraction and ensure people who are affected by their activities are compensated in case of any harm or accidents that they may encounter due to the company's operations. Virtue theory relies on virtues as honesty the companies on the possible dangers that come with their operations and the precaution they intend to put in place to ensure there is safety for everybody as well as the surrounding environment.

## References

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