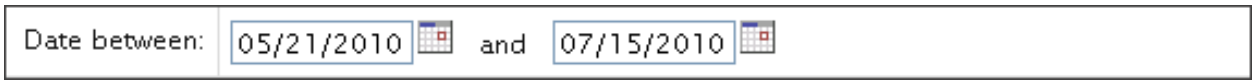
Download Environmental Data Instructions

Data from EPA's response to the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico is available from this database. You can download the entire data set or you can refine your search to specific parameters. (http://oaspub.epa.gov/pd/download.do)

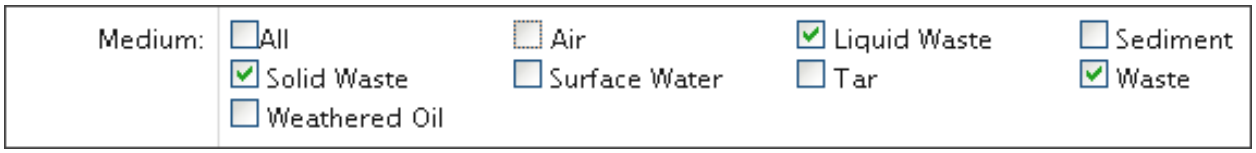
- Begin by entering the data range you'd like to search. Data collection began on April 28, 2010:



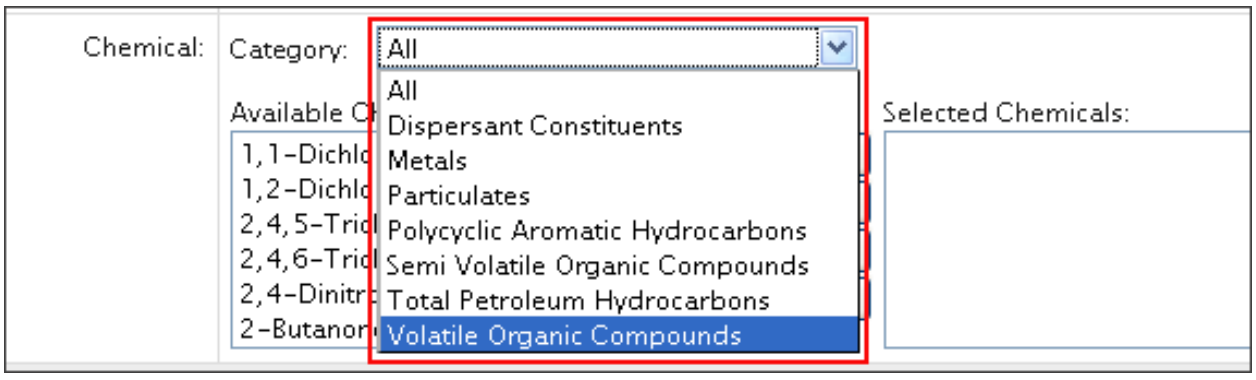
- Select the state name for which you want data from the "State" drop down menu, or select All:

- For "Type" select "Sampling" or "Monitoring" – monitoring provides air monitoring data, sampling provides air sampling, surface water, sediment, and multiple types of waste:

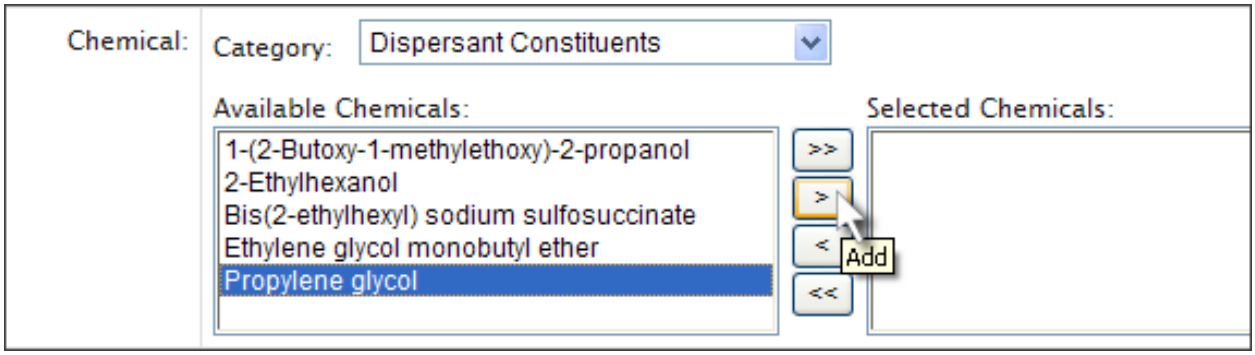
- You can select multiple media (solid waste, weathered oil, air, surface water, liquid waste, tar, sediment, water), a single medium, or all:



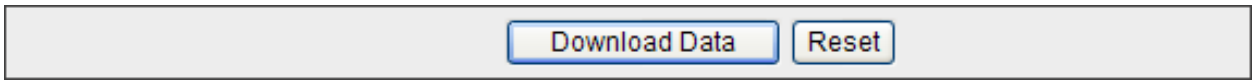
- Chemical categories for the media you've selected will be available in the drop-down selection menu:



- Chemicals for the category you choose can be selected to further refine your search:



- Click “Download Data”



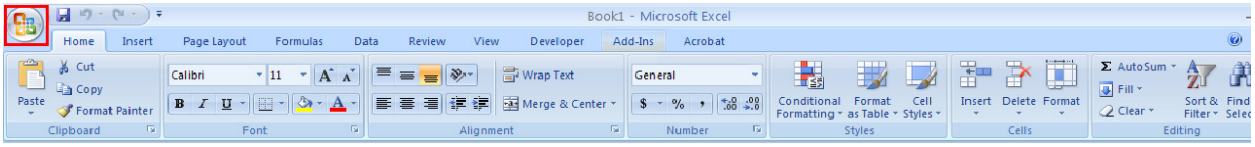
- Your browser will open a window permitting you to **open** or **save** the file in .csv format. If the number of search results exceeds 65,000 rows you will be notified to narrow your search criteria.
- See spreadsheet column definitions on page 3 and 4 of this document.
- Follow the instructions below to work with the files you download in Microsoft Excel 2007 or 2003

To use this file in Microsoft Excel 2007 and 2003

Click the “Open” button and the file will open as a Microsoft Office Excel file (Excel).

You will need to reformat the column widths in Excel to properly display the data. You can do this by highlighting the entire worksheet by clicking CTRL+A and then hovering your mouse over the line dividing columns A and B until the cursor becomes a crosshair and then double clicking.

In order to save the file that you have just opened and formatted, click the Excel Office Button in the top left hand corner, which is highlighted in red in the screenshot below. Next, hover over the “Save As” option and when the menu expands, select the “Excel Workbook” option.



Microsoft Excel - Toolbar

For Excel 2007: When the “Save As” popup appears, select a location where you would like to save this file and ensure that the “Save as type” is set to: Excel Workbook (*.xlsx) and then click the “Save” button. The file is now

saved to the selected location and can be opened in Excel in the future simply by navigating to the file and double clicking on it.

For Excel 2003: In order to save the Excel file that you have just opened and formatted, click the File menu and select the "Save as" option.

When the "Save As" popup appears, select a location where you would like to save this file and ensure that the "Save as type" is set to: Microsoft Excel Workbook. Then click the "Save" button. The file is now saved to the selected location and can be opened in Excel in the future simply by navigating to the file and double clicking on it.

Spreadsheet Column Definitions

Below is a list of definitions for all of the data columns contained in both the Monitoring and Sampling spreadsheets.

Monitoring Data

Date: Date that monitoring was performed

Matrix: Media that was monitored. Example: Air

Location: The name or code that uniquely identifies the monitoring station

State Name: The state in which the monitoring was performed

Instrument: The instrument that was used to perform the monitoring

CAS Number: The unique identifier for a chemical or substance. The CAS acronym stands for Chemical Abstracts Service Number

Substance: The name of each substance that the monitors could detect

Result: The numerical value presented by the monitoring instrument for each substance

Unit: The unit of measure that corresponds to each Result

Interval: Timeframe during which the measurement was taken

Latitude: The latitude at which the monitoring was performed

Longitude: The longitude at which the monitoring was performed

Sampling Data

Date: Date the sample was collected

Matrix: Media that was sampled. Example: Air, Water, Sediment

Sample Name: The unique identifier for each sample collected

Location: The name or code that uniquely identifies the station at which the sample was collected

State Name: The state in which the sample was collected

CAS Number: The unique identifier for a chemical or substance. The CAS acronym stands for Chemical Abstracts Service Number

Substance: The name of each substance for which an analysis was performed

Result: The measured amount of each substance present in a sample

Unit: The unit of measure that corresponds to each Result

Reporting Limit: The lowest amount of a substance that a lab is required to quantify

Reporting Limit Unit: The unit of measure that corresponds to each Reporting Limit

Detected: Indicates whether or not a substance was found in a sample. (Yes/No)

Acute Aquatic Life Benchmark: Defines the minimum level at which exposure to this substance in a short space of time, such as hours, can lead to adverse health effects

Acute Aquatic Life Benchmark Units: The unit of measure that corresponds to each Acute Aquatic Life Benchmark amount

Acute Aquatic Life Benchmark Exceeds: Indicates if the measured result for a given sample exceeds the minimum Acute Aquatic Life Benchmark

Chronic Aquatic Life Benchmark: Defines the minimum level at which exposure to this substance over a long period of time, such as years, can lead to adverse health effects

Chronic Aquatic Life Benchmark Units: The unit of measure that corresponds to each Chronic Aquatic Life Benchmark amount

Chronic Aquatic Life Benchmark Exceeds: Indicates if the measured result for a given sample exceeds the minimum Chronic Aquatic Life Benchmark

Latitude: The latitude at which the sample was collected

Longitude: The longitude at which the sample was collected