



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
BARBARA JORDAN-MICKEY LELAND
SCHOOL *of* PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
RESEARCH WEEK
APRIL 2-5, 2013
THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2013
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Public Affairs,
Walter McCoy Auditorium

Superfund Sites in Houston: In Whose Backyards?

Waleed Alzamil

Graduate Student, Department of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy

Subsequent to 1980 Comprehensive, Environmental, Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) identified abandoned hazardous waste facility sites that pose substantial risk to human health and/or environment. Such sites known as Superfund sites require immediate clean-up. Using census tract information, and within the context of environmental justice, the purpose of this class research project is to find out the demographics of the communities that live close to these sites. The results indicate that the percentages of the population of minorities in 15 of the 23 sites exceed 70. Actually, for nine of the 23 sites the percentages of the population of minorities exceed 90. Also, the percentages of the population of minorities in five of the sites range between 40 and 70. On the other hand, the percentages of the population of minorities are less than 40 in only three of the sites. These results suggest an indication of environmental injustice, the correlation between the presence the presence of hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal facilities, and race and economic status, or a negative connotation.