



OIL INDUSTRY IN THE GULF COAST: A HISTORY OF ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICES

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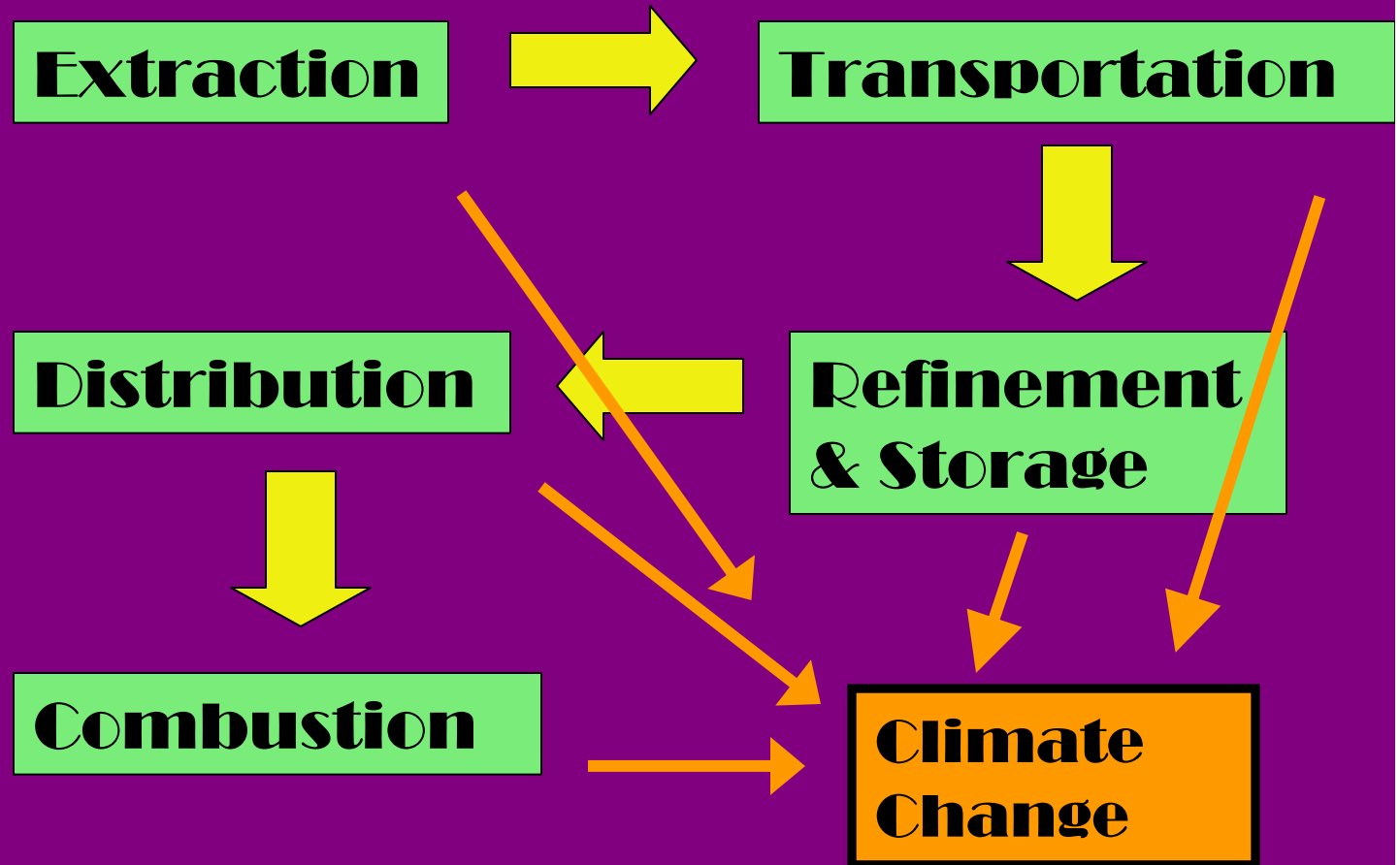


OVERVIEW

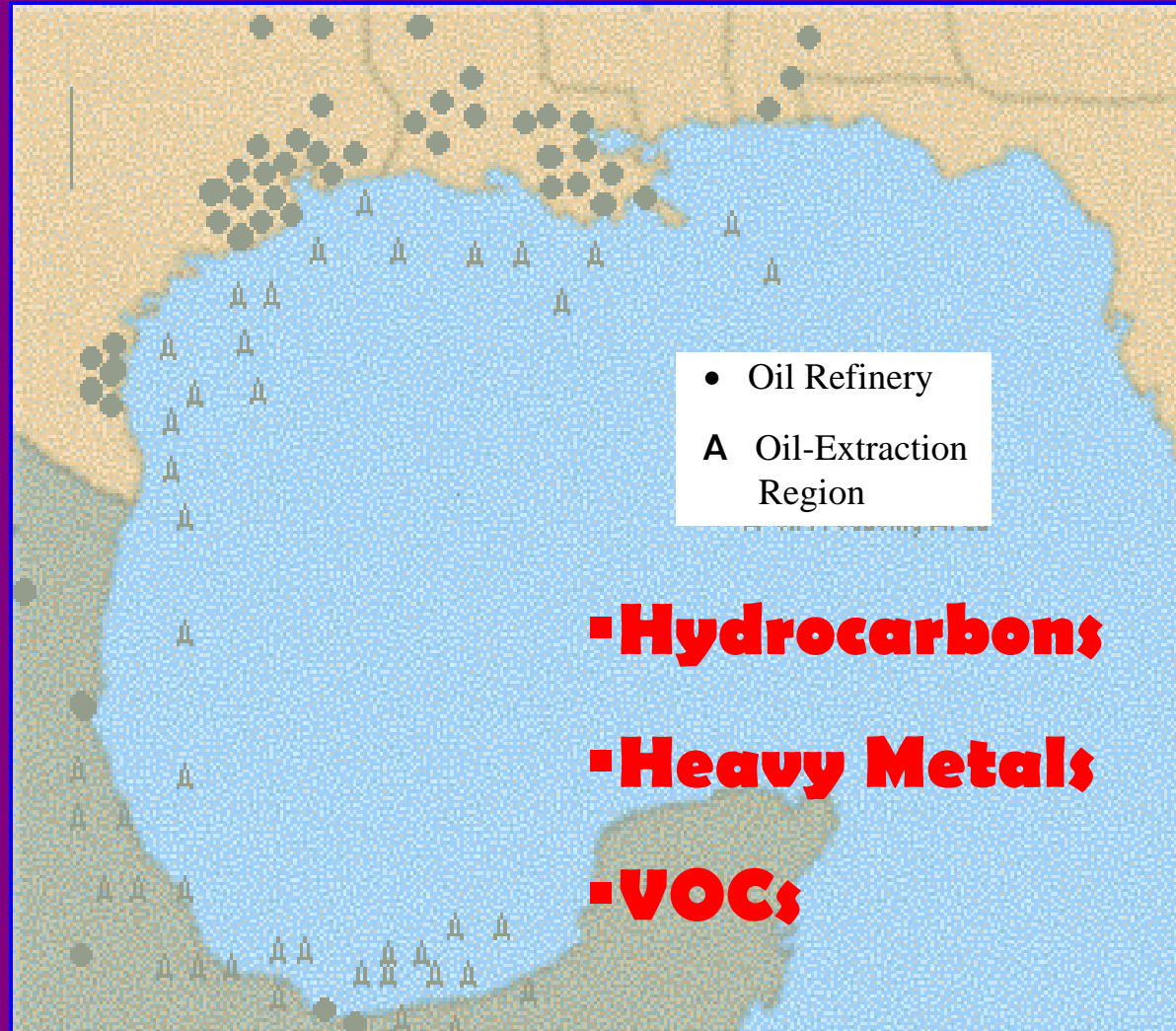
- Put a human face on the impacts of climate change
- In the Gulf Coast, cannot just look at Climate Change in isolation
- Gulf is the hub of the oil industry in the Western Hemisphere
- Communities along the Gulf Coast are already impacted
- Examine Climate Change as part of cumulative impact



ROOTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

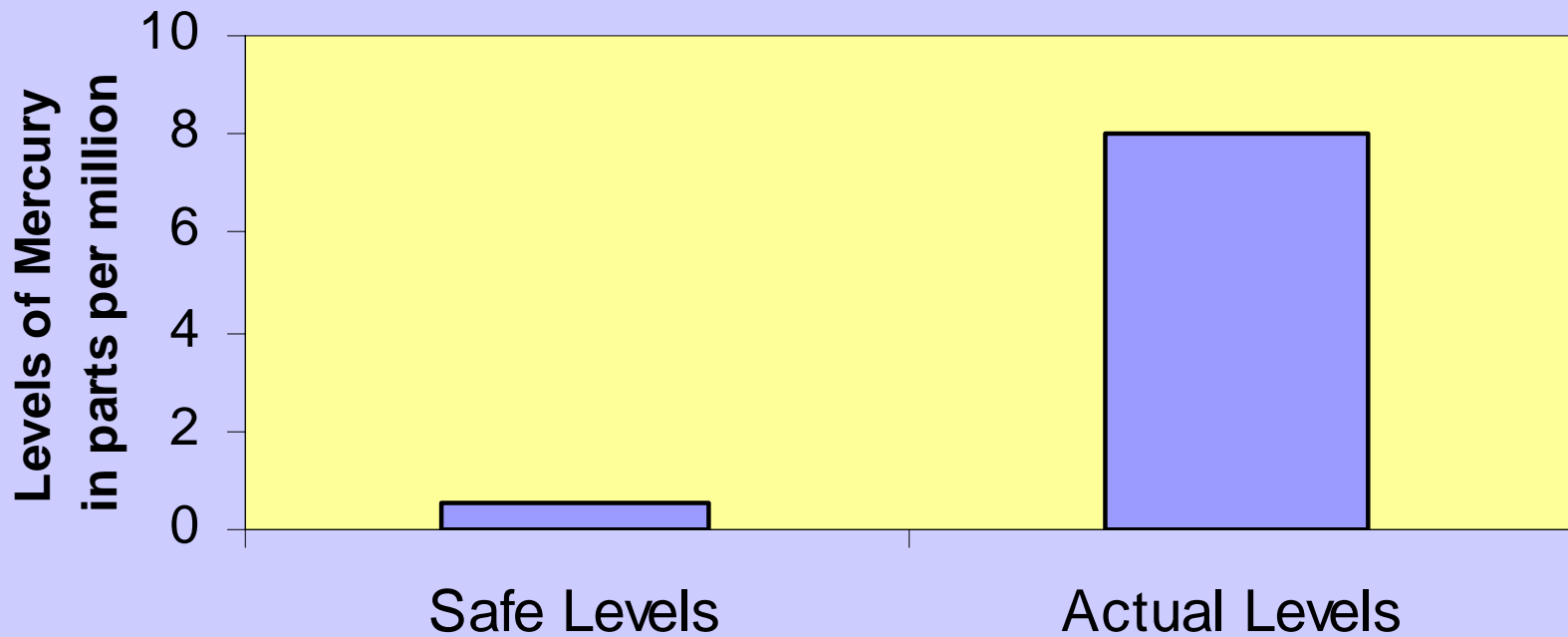


THE TOXIC COAST



EXTRACTION

Mercury Levels in the Gulf of Mexico



OIL REFINEMENT



ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM





HEALTH IMPACTS

- Cancer (childhood leukemia)
- Brain Tumors
- Heart & Respiratory disease
- Asthma
- Disorders of nervous, blood, endocrine & immune systems
- Genetic Damage
- Miscarriages & birth defects
- Deaths & Injuries from Explosions
- Developmental disorders
- Persistent nose bleeds
- Skin irritation



STORIES FROM THE GRASSROOTS

- In Texas, Petrochemical industry accounts for 75% of unhealthy air emissions
- 2/3rd of petrochemical plants in TX are within 1 mile of schools; 73% of 'at risk' kids are people of color
- Beaumont, Texas
- Kennedy Heights, Houston, Texas
- Texas City, Texas
- "Cancer Alley," Louisiana
- Mexico's Gulf States: Loss of fishing grounds, farmland, water supply; militarization of region



CLIMATE CHANGE: LASTING LEGACY

- Not just localized impact
- Rising Temperatures => Increase VOC levels, ozone
- Heat waves, oscillations between floods & droughts
- Loss of water resources
- Toxic Algal Blooms, Decrease fish populations
- Risk to Agriculture & food security
- Increase contamination of water sources
- Spread of infectious diseases
- Perpetuate & Intensify Injustices



FINAL THOUGHTS

- Profit of oil industry is founded on perpetuation of environmental injustices
- Allowed to hide pollution, misinform public, poison communities & workers
- Using 'globalization' as another mechanism to extend profit
- Protection of health, livelihood & culture is integrally linked to opposition of current system of corporate control
- Struggle for justice requires an independence from the addiction to fossil fuels



NEXT STEPS

- Create bi-national convergence between those burdened by the oil industry along the Gulf Coast to dialogue, strategize and envision a different future
- Strive toward a regional strategy that will be equitable, healthy and empowering for the communities and workers of the Gulf Coast