

Alabama Hazardous Substance Cleanup Fund

2007 Annual Report



**Land Division
Environmental Services Branch
January 2008**

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2007 Response Activities

- **AHSCF General Management**
Initial investigation of complaints prior to assigning site numbers, administrative support, and field sampling and safety supplies.
- **McCullough Oil Recycler Site**
Cleanup of site by EPA contractor with ADEM oversight.
- **Buck Creek Mills Brownfield Site**
Final AHSCF activity to ensure settlement agreement parameters were met and completed.
- **Bessemer Petroleum**
Investigation of abandoned bulk petroleum retail facility located in Bessemer, Alabama.
- **Butler County Containers**
Investigation and disposal of paint cans abandoned on the right-of-way on Butler County Road 49 near Greenville, Alabama.
- **19th Street Tank Site**
Investigation of underground storage tanks in the right of way on 19th Street in Birmingham, Alabama.
- **Etowah County Humane Society Drums**
Investigation of complaint by the Etowah County Humane Society regarding 7 abandoned 55-gallon drums on their property near Gadsden Airport.
- **Turner Property Buried Drums**
Investigation of anonymous complaint about possible buried drums on property in Cleburne County.
- **Gunnells Road Drum**
Investigation, removal, and proper disposal of a drum of xylene found when a debris was burned on the property in Elmore County.
- **Bayou La Batre Drums**
Initial site visit conducted under the AHSCF. Site discovered during the Hurricane Katrina cleanup.
- **Groves Drum Site**
Drums dumped on land owned by the Hancock Forest Management area near Ohatchee, AL.

- **White's Chapel Drum Site**
Initial investigation of report of drums abandoned on a wooded area near a former auto shop. Drums were discovered by a neighbor.
- **Broad Wheels, Inc.,**
Investigation of a former plating operation located in Oneonta, AL.
- **Performance Advantage**
Cleanup of site by EPA contractor with ADEM oversight.

About the Alabama Hazardous Substance Cleanup Fund

The Alabama Hazardous Substance Cleanup Fund (AHSCF) was established in 1989 by an act of the Alabama Legislature (Code of Alabama 1975, §22-30A) to provide a mechanism for ADEM to investigate, remediate, and monitor hazardous substance sites. These sites may potentially endanger human health and the environment, but may not qualify to be addressed by other federal or state cleanup programs.

Generally, sites addressed utilizing AHSCF funds either are not qualified for, or are unlikely to receive cleanup funding under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980, commonly referred to as "Superfund". Funding may also be used for long term maintenance and monitoring of sites which have historically been addressed under CERCLA. Since the inception of the AHSCF, approximately 320 sites have been addressed, with approximately 290 sites remediated to a point where no further action is warranted.

The Act allows the staff to respond to citizen's complaints regarding improper disposal of hazardous substances and other toxic materials. The AHSCF also provides the staff right of entry in order to perform these investigations. After initial response to a site, remediation may occur under the auspices of the Superfund or Hazardous Waste programs. Remediation may take place via the AHSCF depending on the specific site conditions. Regardless, if an initial response was performed under the AHSCF, site activities are subsequently summarized in this report to ensure closure of each location.

Initial response actions are usually performed under the general management category. In addition to initial responses other activities which fall under this category include, but are not limited to, personnel and travel costs associated with conducting complaint investigations of sites that are not to be assigned a specific site number, initial complaint investigations prior to having specific site numbers assigned to a site, administrative support for the purchase and repair of equipment utilized on all sites, and field sampling equipment and safety supplies. General administrative functions associated with research and clerical support are encompassed in this category as well.

Funding for the AHSCF activities is generated by legislative appropriations, fees from hazardous waste disposal at the Emelle hazardous waste landfill, and reimbursements from potentially responsible parties (PRPs). For fiscal year 2007, legislative appropriations and tax revenue were \$135,626.36.

Site Specific Information

McCULLOUGH OIL RECYCLER

Chilton County

Reference # 9257

The McCullough Oil Recycler site is located at 145 County Road 523, north of US Highway 22, approximately 4.5 miles from Verbena, Alabama. The Land Division has been attempting to remediate the site since the death of the owner in the late 1990s. Chilton County had a lien on the property because of unpaid property taxes and no responsible party could be located to clean up the site which was a used oil recycling operation. ADEM sampled the various containers, tanks, and drums located around the site and determined most waste was petroleum or oils. AHSCF cannot be used for the remediation of petroleum contaminated sites and ADEM requested the EPA Region 4 Emergency Response and Removal Branch to do a removal at the site. ADEM was concerned that the waste oils on site could be released from their containers and devastate the area, which is very close to Mitchell Lake and the Coosa River.



McCullough Oil, Verbena, AL, (before cleanup)

Assessment and remediation activities began in November of 2006, and were completed by March of 2007. Materials removed from the site were as follows:

- 108 Cubic yards of sludge and contaminated soils
- 33,539 gallons of waste oil and water
- 1000 gallons of water from the tank's secondary containment area
- 5 drums of combustible liquids
- 5 drums of paint
- 2 drums of caustic liquids

These wastes were removed from over 100, 55-gallon drums and 20 above-ground storage tanks staged around the area. Approximately 69,000 pounds of metal were recycled. Total EPA costs were approximately \$252,323. No further action is planned for this site by EPA or ADEM regarding the CERCLA or the AHSCF programs.



Secondary Containment for Former Above-Ground Storage Tanks Holding Waste Oil at McCullough Oil Recycler, Verbena, AL

**BUCK CREEK MILL
Shelby County
Reference #9262**

The Buck Creek Mill (BCM) site is located at 1097 11th Avenue SW, Alabaster, Shelby County. BCM began as a textile manufacturing facility in 1896 and through various owners and operators, this process continued until 1979. More recently the site was used for automotive repairs until 2004 when the City of Alabaster acquired the property.

This is a Brownfield redevelopment site. ADEM personnel conducted subsurface soil sampling, surficial water sampling, and attempted to obtain groundwater samples on site in early 2007. Personnel encountered bedrock between 5-10 feet at all boring locations and no groundwater was available to obtain for sampling. By utilizing innovative site screening technology, sampling approaches, and methodology, ADEM personnel greatly reduced laboratory analytical costs. At this time, no further actions are planned for this site.



Entrance to Buck Creek Mills site

BESSEMER PETROLEUM
Jefferson County
Reference # 9380

The Bessemer Petroleum site, located at 2701 8th Avenue North in Bessemer, was previously evaluated by ADEM Land Division personnel in 2005. At that time, it was decided that remediation of the site would be performed under the Underground Storage Tank program (UST) and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program (NPDES). The former operator of this facility has not complied with the terms of a consent order he signed regarding the UST and NPDES violations. Subsequently ADEM received more complaints regarding oily run off from the underground oil/water separator on site, fuel being abandoned in the USTs, and the abandonment of containers of methanol used in the production of racing fuels.

A multi-media inspection was performed by ADEM and EPA on March 28, 2007, at which time it was observed that drums of racing fuel had been removed. There were still many drums of oily waste located throughout the area. Some tanks and USTs had varying amounts of abandoned product remaining in them. Staining on-site indicated that the underground oil/water separator tank was still overflowing. ADEM Field Operations personnel obtained a sludge sample from that tank for the AHSCF program. The results were negative for RCRA solvents and metals. At this time, the ADEM Office of General Council is considering further legal action, and because of jurisdictional problems, has also enlisted the assistance of EPA Region 4. No further action is expected under the AHSCF or CERCLA programs at this time.

BUTLER COUNTY CONTAINERS

Butler County

Reference # 9395

Personnel responded to a complaint of numerous paint cans abandoned on the side of County Road 49, approximately 8 miles west of Greenville, Alabama. ADEM personnel removed the containers, transported them to Mobile where they were added to the Hurricane Katrina cleanup/disposal materials and were eventually properly disposed with these other materials.

19th STREET TANK SITE

Jefferson County

Reference # 9399

This site is an underground storage tank site discovered by City of Birmingham workers during maintenance on water mains along 19th Street between 4th and 5th Avenues. These tanks were under the right-of-way for the street, and the City of Birmingham requested assistance in removing these tanks. The riveted tanks may have been associated with a laundry on site in the late 1800s or early 1900s. ADEM personnel provided oversight during the excavation, removal, sampling, and disposal of the tanks, possible contaminated soils, liquids and other materials from the site. ADEM provided funding for the sampling, removal, and disposal of wastes generated from the site. No further AHSCF actions are anticipated for this site.



Removal of Tanks from 19th Street, Birmingham, Alabama

ETOWAH COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY DRUMS

Etowah County

Reference # 9403

The Etowah County Humane Society purchased property to be utilized for a new branch of the County Humane Society. This property is located on Brooke Avenue, approximately ¼ mile north of the intersection of State Route 77 in south Gadsden. At the start of site activities, Humane Society staff discovered 7 abandoned, 55-gallon drums of unknown materials. They reported the drums to ADEM and investigators responded to the site, obtained samples from each drum, ensured the integrity of the



Etowah County Humane Society Drums, Gadsden, Alabama

drums, and took the samples to the ADEM Laboratory in Montgomery. Analysis of the samples indicated the materials were mixtures of waste oils, hydraulic fluids, and gasoline. These drums were staged on-site and then transported to a fuel blending operation for disposal of the wastes. No further actions are anticipated for this site.

TURNER PROPERTY BURIED DRUMS

Cleburne County

Reference # 9404

The Turner property is located in Cleburne County along County Road 107. ADEM received an anonymous complaint of possible buried drums at this site. ADEM personnel responded to the site and discovered a burn area where the previous owner had burned treads off of recycled tank tracks, and an area where the current owner had utilized a back hoe to determine depth to bedrock. In this area, at least four buried drums were discovered. ADEM informed the current owner of the proper procedures



Buried drums located on Turner Property

needed to sample and remediate the site. ADEM staff are currently working with the owner to ensure proper removal and disposal.

GUNNELLS ROAD DRUM Elmore County Reference # 9440

This site is located at 1761 Gunnells Road, Elmore County between Deatsville and Millbrook, Alabama. The property owner had a dilapidated structure on the property and hired a neighbor to tear it down and clear/burn the debris. During demolition of the structure, a drum of unknown material was discovered. The ADEM Assessment Section was called for further investigation. The liquid material in the drum was identified as xylene. A fuel blender was contracted to dispose of the xylene in the appropriate manner. No further action is needed at this site.



**Gunnells Road Xylene Drum
Elmore County, Alabama**

**BAYOU LA BATRE DRUMS
Mobile County
Reference # 9442**

This site, located off of Powell Avenue in Bayou la Batre, was discovered during debris cleanup following Hurricane Katrina. At the site three dip tanks, a drip pad and over 200 drums (empty, partially full, and full) were discovered. The drums contained materials used to dip and coat commercial fishing nets. After the site investigation by ADEM, the property owner was contacted about removal of the drums and liquids in the tanks and vats. A contractor was hired by the property owner, all drums and tanks were characterized, and the contents and contaminated soil around the site were disposed in the appropriate manner. ADEM personnel provided oversight to the contractors during the removal operations at the site. The Assessment Section is currently awaiting a final removal report regarding site activities.



**Drums, Nets, and Dipping Vats at Bayou La Batre
Before Cleanup**



**Powell Avenue Drum Site, Bayou La Batre
After Cleanup**

GROVES DRUM SITE
Calhoun County
Reference # 9443

ADEM was notified of 24 drums that were dumped on forest land near Ohatchee, Alabama. A nearby landowner had been acquiring small amounts of chemicals through his job with Etowah Chemical Company, which were stored in a neighbor's barn. The nearby landowner was told to remove them from the barn, whereupon he placed the off specification materials "temporarily" on hunting club property being leased from Hancock Forest Management. Hunting club members brought the drums to the attention of Hancock Forest Management who immediately notified ADEM of the abandoned drums.

ADEM personnel responded to the site and performed field screening of the materials. The EPA Criminal Investigation Division was also notified. After the initial investigation, the responsible party was determined and advised to remove the chemicals. His employer, Etowah Chemical Company, took half of the drums to utilize the chemicals in their industrial processes for making detergents and other chemicals. After additional testing for compatibility the remaining 12 drums were consolidated into 5 drums and disposed of at an appropriate facility.

ADEM provided oversight during the process and helped arrange for the transportation and disposal of the materials. No further actions are deemed necessary at this site.



**Groves Abandoned Drums, Hancock Wildlife Management Area
near Ohatchee, AL**

WHITE'S CHAPEL DRUM SITE

Etowah County

Reference #9444

The Etowah County EMA notified ADEM of 10 drums of unidentified liquids discovered when a trash fire got out of control and burned the wooded area adjacent to 106 Bus Barn Road, White's Chapel, Alabama. The local fire departments responded to the fire and 10 drums were found in the debris from the fire.

Initial investigation by the ADEM Assessment Section determined that the owner of a former auto body facility next to the burn site placed the drums there 15 to 20 years before discovery. The drums contained mineral spirits and paint thinners. The drums are in poor physical condition and ADEM is currently assisting the owner in disposal of the materials.

BROAD WHEELS, INC.

Blount County

Reference # 9000

In March ADEM Assessment Section staff investigated a complaint at the former Broad Wheels, Inc. site located at 500 Hudson Street in Oneonta, Alabama. The site once manufactured metal tire rims and utilized metal plating and painting in their processes. Concern was raised about the possible abandonment of potentially hazardous waste from the plating and painting operations. While in operation Broad Wheels was subject to the hazardous waste program regulations. In the early 1990s the facility was required to remove hazardous waste, perform soil/source removal, and do groundwater monitoring under RCRA Corrective Action. The actions performed at the facility met the RCRA closure standards, after which the company went out of business.

An investigation of the site found a partially fenced site easily accessible by the public. The site was walked and several waste piles were observed on-site. Two buildings are on site; the smaller building to the east appears to be administrative and sales offices; while the larger building to the west contained the plating and painting lines. One building had been razed down to the concrete slab. On the slab were several 55-gallon drums that appeared to contain painting wastes, some of which were leaking. Other drums appeared to contain plating wastes.

Inside the operations building to the west of the site were several abandoned containers of muriatic and sulfuric acid and non-halogenated lacquer thinner. In the plating area,



**Materials Left at the Broad Wheels Site
Oneonta, Alabama**

all plating vats had been removed except for several at the eastern end of the building that contained sludge and other unknown liquids. The area where other vats had been located had been filled with material which appeared to be plating sludges and other industrial wastes. Two wastewater treatment tanks were also present, each with a volume of approximately 1000 gallons. Each tank contained several hundred gallons of wastewater treatment sludge that could be RCRA listed or characteristic hazardous wastes.



**Abandoned Plating Vats and Sludges at
Broad Wheels Inc, Oneonta, AL**

ADEM will utilize all its resources to ensure the site is remediated. Hazardous waste regulations still apply to the site, which requires the owner/operator to remediate the site. ADEM is also seeking assistance from the EPA Superfund Program to further investigate the entire site.

PERFORMANCE ADVANTAGE
Coosa County
Reference # 9000

Performance Advantage is located on County Road 29 in Coosa County, 0.5 miles south of Weogufka. The business operated as an oil reclamation facility during the early 1980s; operations ceased around 1990. Oil and other petroleum materials were abandoned at the site following its closure. Drums and above-ground storage tanks contained a significant volume of oils that could contaminate nearby surface water features and Weogufka Creek if released.

AHSCF funds cannot be used to remediate petroleum-contaminated sites. ADEM had requested assistance from EPA for site remediation for several years. When local residents complained to EPA about the oily water run off contaminating an adjacent pond and subsequently Weogufka Creek, the EPA Emergency Response and Removal Branch initiated a time critical removal action at the site in January 2007. EPA action



Above-Ground Storage Tanks during Removal Actions by EPA



Cleanup of Pond and Soils around Storage Tanks by EPA Personnel

included the recovery of oil from the pond, excavation and staging of oil saturated soils, removal of all oils from tanks and drums, and dismantling of the tanks, piping and other ancillary equipment. ADEM Assessment Section staff assisted EPA staff with oversight of all removal activities and in locating disposal facilities. Materials removed from the site included:

- 350, 55-gallon drums of various wastes;
- Steel from 26 tanks and ancillary equipment recycled;
- 36,000 gallons of oil/water mixture;
- 40 cubic yards of oily solids;
- 72 cubic yards of lead-contaminated soils;
- 3.3 tons of asbestos-containing materials;
- 9 tons of oily debris;
- 27 tons of sludge;
- 807 ton of contaminated soils.

Removal activities were completed by EPA and their contractors in September 2007 at a cost of \$1,156,900. No further EPA or AHSCF actions are anticipated for this site.



Site After Cleanup by EPA

Expenditures and Cost Recovery

AHSCF funds are used to investigate and remediate abandoned hazardous substance sites. If the responsible party is unwilling or unable to conduct an investigation or cleanup, funds from AHSCF may be used and cost recovery and punitive damages may be pursued after the cleanup is complete. Total expenditures from the AHSCF were \$104,521.76 from October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007.

Site Name	Action Taken	Cost
AHSCF General Management	Administrative, clerical support, initial Investigations, equipment	\$37,510.10
McCullough Oil Recycler	Oversight of cleanup by EPA	\$43.29
Buck Creek Mills	Sampling of subsurface soils and groundwater	\$17,279.32
Bessemer Petroleum	Surficial soils, surface water, and sediment sampling performed on site	Other funding
Butler County Containers	Response and removal of abandoned paint cans	\$296.61
19th Street Tank Site	Oversight for excavation, removal, and proper disposal of tanks	\$31,026.25
Humane Society Drum Site	Coordinating the appropriate transportation and disposal of abandoned drums	\$3,349.09
Turner Property Buried Drums	Investigation of complaint of buried drums	\$121.36
Gunnells Road Drum	Initial response and investigation of a drum of unknown materials. Transportation and disposal	\$1,566.64
Bayou La Batre Drums	Oversight of removal/excavation of drums and contaminated soils	\$928.46
Groves Drum Site	Investigation and coordination of disposal of abandoned drums	\$2,226.09
White's Chapel Drums	Initial investigation and coordination with owner for disposal	\$589.13
Broad Wheels Inc.	Initial investigation of site	Other funding
Performance Advantage	Coordination with EPA on emergency removal operations	Other funding
Laboratory Costs - Total	All Sites	\$9,585.42
Total Cost		\$104,521.76

Site Location Map

