

Alabama Hazardous Substance Cleanup Fund 2020 Annual Report



Land Division
Environmental Services Branch

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Overview of the Alabama Hazardous Substance Cleanup Fund

The Alabama Hazardous Substance Cleanup Fund (AHSCF) was established in 1989 by 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 under the AHSCF are not qualified for or are unlikely to receive cleanup funding under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), commonly referred to as “Superfund”. AHSCF 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, 386 sites have been addressed, with 336 sites remediated to a point where no further action is required.

The Act allows the staff to respond to citizen complaints regarding improper disposal of hazardous substances and other toxic materials and provides right of entry in order to perform these investigations. After initial response to a site, remediation may occur under Superfund, the Hazardous Waste Program, or AHSCF, depending on the specific site conditions. If an initial response was performed under 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 that fall under this category include, but are not limited to: personnel and travel costs associated with conducting complaint investigations of sites that are not 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 also included in this category. Three sites were addressed under the general administrative fund during Fiscal Year (FY) 2020.

Funding for AHSCF activities is generated by fees from hazardous waste disposal at the Chemical Waste Management hazardous waste landfill in Emelle, Alabama, and reimbursements from potentially responsible parties (PRPs). For FY2020, fee revenue were \$142,089.11.

2020 Response Activities

AHSCF General Management

Initial investigation of complaints prior to assigning site numbers, administrative support, field sampling, and acquisition of sampling and safety supplies are some of the activities performed under the general management category. Several sites were initially investigated utilizing the Alabama Hazardous Substance Cleanup Fund (AHSCF). A complaint was also investigated regarding a site in Brent, Alabama. The Brent Industries, a manufacturer of work gloves and industrial laundry, burned several years ago, and a concerned citizen complained that there might be hazardous materials on the site. The investigation verified that the EPA oversaw the initial cleanup of the site after the fire and no hazardous materials were left on the site. A solid waste issue regarding disposal of the former building materials is currently the subject of litigation between the facility owners and insurance companies. The facility's owners have been contacted numerous times over the past year inquiring about the status of any planned cleanup. In addition, ongoing investigation, engineering review, ADEM oversight, and other functions have been occurring at the Coliseum Boulevard Plume Site. Also, a mercury disposal project was handled by Department personnel during the past fiscal year. Total expenditures for the past fiscal year totaled \$53,313.28.

Site Specific Information

AHSCF GENERAL MANAGEMENT

Statewide

Reference # 348-9000

Several sites were initially investigated under the auspices of the general management fund code. This fund code allows investigators to perform initial surveys of the sites to determine whether assigning a site-specific fund code is applicable or if the site would be better managed under another program due to the prevailing circumstances. One such site investigated this past fiscal year was the shuttered Brent Industries facility. Brent Industries was a glove manufacturer and industrial laundry located in the town of Brent, Alabama. A concerned citizen complained that people from the community were falling ill and blamed Brent Industries. In 2015, the Brent Industries facility was destroyed in an explosion and fire and has been under litigation between the owners and the insurance company. The U.S. EPA provided oversight to the initial cleanup of the facility when the explosion/fire happened. Sampling was performed after the cleanup to ensure no residual contaminants were left in place. A solid waste issue exists with the debris of the former metal buildings, but no hazardous materials remain on the site. ADEM personnel have been in contact with concerned citizens about the abandoned facility and have contacted the owners several times during the past year.

Coliseum Boulevard Plume

Montgomery County

Reference #348-9273

The Coliseum Boulevard Plume (CBP) site, which encompasses 682 acres in north Montgomery, has experienced underlying groundwater contamination resulting from historic solvent usage by local commercial and industrial facilities. The site is bound by Lower Wetumpka Road on the west, Emory Folmar Boulevard to the east, Northern Boulevard to the north, and CSX Railroad to the south. The contaminant of concern is trichloroethylene (TCE) and the related compounds resulting from its degradation. The impacted groundwater is at a depth of 25 to 45 feet below ground surface and was found to be entering a surface water ditch.

Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) continues to conduct monitoring for TCE in surface water emanating from the west and main branches of the Kilby ditch. ALDOT also continues to perform groundwater monitoring to ascertain current levels of the contamination and monitor natural attenuation progression. The Community Outreach

Group continues to meet on a regular basis. Finally, ADEM continues to provide oversight and reviewing of groundwater and surface water sampling performed by contractors for ALDOT at the CBP site.

Hanceville Mercury Site Cullman County Ref#348-9658

The Hanceville Mercury Site consists of two small amounts of mercury that were picked up and consolidated by ADEM personnel. The first amount of mercury was collected by Roger Green, Chief of the Hanceville Fire Department. Chief Rogers had an individual that discovered approximately 3 ounces of mercury in an old shed. The mercury was packed in a 5-gallon bucket and picked up by ADEM personnel for transport and disposal. The second site was located in Graysville, AL. Mr. Jerry Parsons called ADEM's Decatur Field Office asking how to dispose of approximately 20 pounds of mercury that he collected in the sixties. He worked in a coal mine, and the owner/operator of the coal mine was throwing the mercury away. Mr. Parsons, who is 84 years old, had no idea about the toxicity of mercury until now. The mercury was contained in a sealed heavy-duty ½-gallon plastic container and was being stored in his basement. Mr. Parsons is disabled and lives on a fixed income. He was concerned that someone may be exposed to the mercury after his death if it was not removed from his house. ADEM personnel picked up the container of mercury and combined the two amounts in one container for transport and disposal at the Chemical Waste Management landfill in Emelle, AL. The package was delivered to the Chemical Waste Management landfill on October 8, 2019.

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 \$53,313.28 from October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020.

Site Name	Action Taken	Cost
AHSCF General Management	Administrative, clerical support, initial investigations, equipment	\$32,627.86
9273 – Coliseum Boulevard Plume	Oversight of annual monitoring and report reviews	\$20,485.42
9658 – Hanceville Mercury Site	Initial investigation, coordination of removal	\$200.00
Total Cost	-----	\$53,313.28

AHSCF Site Map - FY 2020

