

# ***Alabama Hazardous Substance Cleanup Fund 2006 Annual Report***



**Land Division  
Environmental Services Branch  
January 2007**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Response Activities Overview.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Enforcement, Expenditures and Cost Recovery.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Overview of the Alabama Hazardous Substance Cleanup Program .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Site Specific Information .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Irvington Tire Fire Site, Mobile County.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>McCullough Oil Recycler, Chilton County.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Buck Creek Mill, Shelby County.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Sylacauga Brownfield, Talladega County.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Butler County Containers (Greenville), Butler County.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>19<sup>th</sup> Street Tank Site, Jefferson County.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Etowah County Humane Society Drums (Gadsden), Etowah County.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Turner Property Buried Drums, Cleburne County.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Sulligent Drums, Lamar County.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Hollywood Meth Lab, Jackson County.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Performance Advantage, Coosa County.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Pelham WWTP Burn/Dump Site,Shelby County.....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Bayou La Batre Drums, Mobile County.....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>AHSCF Expenditure Summary .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Site Location Map .....</b>	<b>22</b>

## 2006 Response Activities

- **AHSCF General Management**  
Initial investigation of complaints prior to assigning site numbers, administrative support, and field sampling and safety supplies.
- **Irvington Tire Fire Site**  
Provided assistance for a file review performed by an interested party.
- **McCullough Oil Recycler Site**  
Sampling of waste oil tanks and drums by EPA contractor with ADEM oversight.
- **Buck Creek Mills Brownfield Site**  
Final AHSCF activity to ensure settlement agreement parameters were met and completed.
- **Sylacauga Brownfield Site**  
Review of data and compilation of narrative report to be sent to US EPA Region 4 for approval.
- **Butler County Containers**  
Investigation and disposal of paint cans abandoned on the right of way on County Road 49 in Butler County near Greenville, Alabama.
- **19<sup>th</sup> Street Tank Site**  
Investigation of underground storage tanks in the right of way on 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **Sulligent Drums**

Investigation of complaint by property owner of drums abandoned on his property near Sulligent, Alabama.

### ➤ **Hollywood Meth Lab Site**

Investigation of complaint by Jackson County Sheriff's office regarding a possible Meth Lab at a residence in Hollywood, Alabama.

### ➤ **Performance Advantage**

Further cleanup and stabilization activities of spill areas around waste tanks and contaminated soils.

### ➤ **Pelham WWTP Burn/Dump Site**

The initial site visit and meeting was conducted under the AHSCF by Environmental Services Branch personnel. Due to the additional assessment activities that were requested by EPA, the site transitioned from the AHSCF program to the federal Superfund Program.

### ➤ **Bayou La Batre Drums**

Initial site visit conducted under the AHSCF. Site discovered during the Hurricane Katrina cleanup.

## **Enforcement, Expenditures and Cost Recovery**

The recovery of cleanup and remediation cost for a site from the potentially responsible party (PRP) is a major part of the Alabama Hazardous Substance Cleanup Fund (AHSCF). Response actions at hazardous substance sites may be conducted by the PRP with oversight by ADEM. However, if a PRP is unwilling or unable to conduct a cleanup, funds from the AHSCF may be used and cost recovery and punitive damages may be pursued after the cleanup is complete. In fiscal year 2006, cost recovery efforts from PRPs totaled \$63,610.45. Total expenditures from the AHSCF were \$131,201.57 from October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006.

# About the Alabama Hazardous Substance Cleanup Fund

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

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 310 sites have been addressed, with approximately 280 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 2006, legislative appropriations and tax revenue were \$100,757.18.

# Site Specific Information

## **IRVINGTON TIRE FIRE**

**Mobile County**

**Reference # 9198**

The Irvington Tire Fire site was the location of a previous tire shredding business operated by Mr. Richard L. Taylor. An estimated 100,000 tires and 1,000 tons of



**Eroded soil cap with steel belt radial bands evident on Irvington Tire Fire site** shredded tires had accumulated on these five acres. US EPA ERRB conducted an emergency response to the site on April 15, 1997 when the stored tires caught fire. The fire was smothered with 17,420 cubic yards of clean fill. The resulting 23,600 gallons of pyrolic oil was captured in sumps via French drains, and disposed by a contractor.

In 2006, ADEM was tasked with performing a CERCLA Reassessment of this site to ascertain current conditions and to determine whether those conditions required additional work to be performed. ADEM personnel utilized AHSCF authority of entry to access the site and perform the initial investigation of those conditions. Those actions included field screening of soils for heavy metals, sampling of surface water on-site, and a site reconnaissance.

**MCCULLOUGH OIL RECYCLER**  
**Chilton County**  
**Reference # 9257**

The McCullough Oil Recycler site is located at 145 County Road 523, in Chilton County, approximately 4.5 miles east of Verbena, Alabama. The owner and



**HAZ Mat Team Sampling Drums, McCullough Oil, Chilton County**

operator of the used oil recycling business died unexpectedly in an automobile accident in 1999. Currently, the County holds the lien on the property due to unpaid property taxes. ADEM personnel met with the US EPA's Enforcement Project Manager and On-Site Coordinator to determine further action based on the results from the previous site evaluation and sampling event. As a result, the OSC has requested authorization for removal of oil-filled tanks, drums, and contaminated soil.



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

The Buck Creek Mill (BCM) site is located at 1097 11<sup>th</sup> 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.



**Entrance to Buck Creek Mills site**

This is a Brownfield site which was assigned an AHSCF number for tracking purposes because at the start of the Brownfield program, there was no accounting mechanism established to track cost associated with the newly developed program. ADEM personnel conducted surface water, sediment, and surficial soil sampling in the spring of 2006. By utilizing innovative site screening technology, sampling approaches, and methodology, ADEM personnel obtained analytical data from over 570 soil sample locations, and greatly reduced laboratory analytical costs. Groundwater and subsurface soil sampling is planned for Buck Creek Mill in early 2007.

## **SYLACAUGA BROWNFIELD**

**Talladega County**

**Reference #9323**

The City of Sylacauga owns 12.5 acres of property located at the corner of Highway 148 and Taft Brown Road. This area was utilized as a municipal landfill from 1969-1974. Today, the Sylacauga Utilities Board operates a water pump station on the southeastern corner of the site. Also, the City of Sylacauga operates a chip mill in the northeastern portion of this site. The remainder of the site is undeveloped and covered with dense vegetation. This site was selected for a targeted Brownfields assessment. Prior to the establishment of Brownfields tracking codes, these assessments were tracked utilizing AHSCF codes. Additionally, initial site visits, reconnaissance, and background work was charged to the site. Brownfields assessments are performed at sites where there is a real or perceived threat that previous activity at a site may have left behind industrial materials that could pose a problem for reuse of the site. The baseline environmental assessment performed by ADEM at this site provides data needed to plan for redevelopment of the area.

In FY06, ADEM technical staff reviewed, interpreted, and compiled the observations and data into a narrative and graphic report including maps, figures, illustrations, and attachments. This report was forwarded to EPA Region 4 in Atlanta, Georgia. Upon EPA's review and approval of this assessment report, a copy will be forwarded to the City of Sylacauga.

## **BUTLER COUNTY CONTAINERS**

**Butler County**

**Reference # 9395**

Personnel responded to a complaint of paint cans abandoned on the side of the road on County Road 49, approximately 8 miles west of Greenville, Alabama just north of State Route 10. 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.

**19<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> Street between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>



**Removal of Tanks From 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Birmingham, Alabama**



Avenues. These tanks were under the right-of-way for the street, and the City of Birmingham requested assistance in addressing these tanks. These tanks were riveted tanks and historical research suggested they might have been associated with a laundry on site in the late 1800s or early 1900s. ADEM personnel responded to the site and provided oversight during the excavation, removal, sampling, and disposal of the tanks, possible contaminated soils, liquids and other materials from the site. ADEM rendered assistance by providing funding for the sampling, removal, and disposal of wastes generated from the site.

## **ETOWAH COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY DRUMS**

### **Etowah County**

### **Reference # 9403**

The Etowah County Humane Society broke ground and started clearing their land 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 and Brooke Avenue on the south side of Gadsden, Alabama. When they began to



### **Etowah County Humane Society Drums, Gadsden, Alabama**

clear the property, they 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 drums, and took the samples to the ADEM Laboratory in Montgomery for analysis. Analysis of the samples indicated the materials were mixtures of waste oils, hydraulic fluids, and gasoline. These drums were staged on-site and as of October 1, 2006, they were awaiting transportation and proper disposal at a fuel blending operation at this time.

## **TURNER PROPERTY BURIED DRUMS**

**Cleburne County**

**Reference # 9404**

The Turner property is located in Cleburne County along County Road 107. ADEM investigators 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



**Buried drums located on Turner Property**

owner had burned treads off of recycled tank tracks and an area where the current owner had utilized a back hoe to test the depth to bedrock. In this area, at least four buried drums were discovered. ADEM is corresponding with the owner to address this problem and ensure proper removal, categorizing of the materials and disposal.

## **SULLIGENT DRUMS**

**Lamar County**

**Reference # 9421**

This site is located south of the town of Sulligent in a field near Gunter Road. The property owner, a resident of Mississippi, discovered 5 drums abandoned on his property and reported it to ADEM. Investigators responded to the site to locate the 55-gallon drums and perform an initial investigation. Further investigation and sampling will take place to adequately characterize the materials and ensure proper disposal of the wastes which at this time is suspected to be waste oils.



## **HOLLYWOOD METH LAB**

**Jackson County**

**Reference #9431**

This site is located at a residence on County Road 42 in Hollywood, Jackson County, Alabama. The Jackson County Sheriff's department busted a suspected methamphetamine lab at the residence. At the time of the bust, individuals involved



**Well at Hollywood Meth Lab Site**

may have dumped clandestine laboratory materials in the drinking water well at the site. The sheriff's office requested assistance from ADEM to sample the well at the residence. ADEM investigators responded to the site, met personnel from the sheriff's office and tested the well and obtained soil samples from areas of distressed vegetation near the well house. No constituents were found in the laboratory analysis. No further actions are contemplated for this site.

## **PERFORMANCE ADVANTAGE**

### **Coosa County**

### **Managed under Ref #9000**

Performance Advantage is located on County Road 29 south of Weogufka in Coosa County, Alabama. The site is an abandoned oil refinery and a local resident called to complain that several of the tanks were leaking and discharging to the adjacent creek.

Investigators responded to the site and met with US EPA personnel. It was also observed at that time that oil that had soaked into the ground was seeping to the surface due to recent rain storms. Clean up activities performed by EPA contractors included pumping oil from the leaking tanks into one of the larger tanks.



**Tanks at Performance Advantage**

Contaminated soil was removed with a Bobcat and placed on a plastic liner and covered. Solid waste which had been dumped at this site and contaminated with oil was also placed on the liner and covered.

A plastic liner was placed underneath the larger tank and a berm was constructed around it to contain further leaks. A berm was also constructed around the smaller tank. Most of the soil where seepage occurred was removed and placed on the plastic liner, and an absorbent material was spread over the area. This area was contained within the berm around the larger tank.

ADEM personnel met with the US EPA's Enforcement Project Manager and On-Site Coordinator to determine further action based on the results from the previous site evaluation. Originally, there was some dispute over who owned the land. Courthouse records show the property is in the name of a Trust. Members of the Trust claimed that this facility was previously sold and the Trust was not responsible for the emergency clean-up actions or any future clean-up activities. EPA is currently negotiating with the Trust for costs and removal activities.

## **PELHAM WWTP BURN/DUMP SITE**

**Shelby County**

**Reference #9000**



**The site, Pelham WWTP burn/dump site, Shelby County**

The Pelham Waste Water Treatment Plant site is located near Old Tuscaloosa Road off of Lee Street, in the City of Pelham, Shelby County, Alabama. Following the receipt of a citizen's complaint, the U.S. EPA Region 4 Superfund program requested ADEM assistance and involvement in responding to the complaint. The complaint arose when the City of Pelham began utilizing the area to burn storm debris following Hurricane Ivan. In addition to the burning by the City, unauthorized/illegal dumping of household garbage and bagged grass clippings was also occurring at the site by local residents. The initial site visit and meeting was conducted under the AHSCF by Environmental Services Branch personnel. Due to the additional assessment activities that were requested by EPA, the site transitioned from the AHSCF program to the federal Superfund Program to be assessed as a Pre-CERCLIS Screening Assessment in order to evaluate and document the response efforts and site conditions. Those assessment activities are currently underway.

# **BAYOU LA BATRE DRUMS**

## **Mobile County**

### **Reference # 9000**

During the cleanup of destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina, this site located in the woods adjacent to Powell Avenue was discovered. The site consists of over 200 drums (empty, partially full, and full) of materials used to dip and coat commercial fishing nets. In addition, there are three dip tanks, a drip pad, and scaffold utilized to dip the nets. The person running the operation is at this time unknown. ADEM is corresponding with the owner of the site to address site problems. This site will probably be referred to the US EPA Emergency Response and Removal Branch since the size of the site is larger than can be managed under the AHSCF. A meeting at this site with EPA Superfund staff is scheduled for the second week in January 2007.



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



**AHSCF Expenditures for 2006 are summarized below:**

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Action Taken</b>	<b>Cost</b>
AHSCF General Management	Administrative, clerical support, Initial Investigations, equipment	60,995.92
Irvington Tire Fire Site	Initial entry of site to facilitate CERCLA Reassessment	706.51
McCullough Oil Recycler	Sampling of drums and tanks by EPA	Managed under Admin funding
Buck Creek Mills	Surficial soils, surface water, and sediment sampling performed on site	31,798.14
Sylacauga Brownfield	Groundwater, soil, surface water sampling results and report compilation	3,078.65
Butler County Containers	Response and removal of abandoned paint cans along County Road 49 in Butler County	181.15
19 <sup>th</sup> Street Tank Site	Oversight for excavation, removal, and proper disposal of tanks found under 19 <sup>th</sup> Street	10,141.86
Humane Society Drum Site	Response, sampling, staging, and coordinating disposal of abandoned drums	3,913.19
Turner Property Buried Drums	Investigation of complaint of buried drums in Cleburne County, Alabama	626.22
Sulligent Drums	Investigation and staging of five abandoned drums near Sulligent, Alabama	1,471.99
Hollywood Meth Lab Site	Investigation of possible Meth Lab near Hollywood, Alabama	807.24
Performance Advantage	Coordination with EPA on disposal plans for materials on-site	Managed under Admin funding
Pelham WWTP Burn/Dump	Initial investigation of site; site deemed more appropriate for CERCLA	Managed under Admin funding
Bayou La Batre Drums	Initial investigation of site	Managed under Admin funding
Laboratory Costs - Total	All Sites	16,480.70
<b>Total Cost</b>		<b>\$130,201.57</b>

# Site Location Map

