

Alabama Hazardous Substance Cleanup Fund

2009 Annual Report



Land Division
Environmental Services Branch
January 2010

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2009 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.
- **Cook Road Paint Waste Site**
Investigation of discarded paint cans on private property in Baldwin County. No further action is planned for this site.
- **Warrior Asphalt Company**
Follow-up visit to determine if the site was eligible for an EPA emergency removal. EPA has scheduled a removal during the fall of 2009.
- **Larry Manning Site**
Initial site visit and sampling of drums on commercial property in Cullman County. Property owner was contacted and issued a Notice of Violation which gave him 180 days to remove drums and other refuse.
- **Buck Island Drum Site**
Investigation and sampling of abandoned drum on private property in Etowah County. Drum was removed and disposed properly by Giant Resource Recovery.
- **Tram Avenue Drum Site**
Initial site visit regarding abandoned drums near Bayou La Batre. A follow-up visit revealed that the drums had been illegally transported by an oil recycler. The site has been referred to ADEM's Industrial Hazardous Waste Branch, Compliance & Enforcement Section for further action.
- **Magnolia Street Residential Chemicals**
Investigation of abandoned private chemistry lab in Baldwin County. Containers of hazardous chemicals were removed from the private residence, then recycled or disposed appropriately.
- **Loxley U-Stor-It Chemicals**
Investigation of hazardous chemicals found in a self-storage unit in Baldwin County. Containers of hazardous chemicals were removed from the unit, then recycled or disposed appropriately.
- **Super Steel South Site**
Initial site visit regarding abandoned chemical storage containers. The company responded and removed all containers from the property. No further action is planned for this site.
- **Environmental Technical Aid, Inc.**
Initial site visit in response to a complaint by the Jefferson County Health Department regarding the abandonment of potentially hazardous materials at the site. The property owner has initiated removal actions and will be coordinating with ADEM regarding further site assessment to include soil testing.

- **Padgett Chevron Drum Site**
Investigation of two abandoned drums near a residential area in Houston County. Further investigation revealed that the drums contained purge-water from nearby groundwater monitoring wells. No further action is planned for this site.
- **Wetumpka Highway 231 Drum Site**
Investigation of abandoned drums near Highway 231 in Elmore County. Further investigation revealed that the drums contained purge-water from nearby groundwater monitoring wells. No further action is planned for this site.
- **White's Chapel Drum Site**
Final correspondence with the local EMA regarding final analysis of abandoned drums in regard to actions at the site during the previous year.
- **Pleasant Grove PCB Site**
Investigation and sampling of three transformers inside a shed in Jefferson County. Sample analysis revealed that the transformers did not contain any PCB oils. No further action is planned for this site.

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 of 1980 (CERCLA), 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 335 sites have been addressed, with approximately 300 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 2009, legislative appropriations and tax revenue were \$133,257.71.

Site Specific Information

COOK ROAD PAINT WASTE

Baldwin County

Reference # 9501

The Cook Road Paint Waste Site is located on Cook Road, Foley, Baldwin County, Alabama, west of the Bon Secour River. A complaint was received about numerous lead-based paint cans stored at a residential property, and there were concerns that some of the cans had leaked. Since the time the initial complaint was filed, the building that allegedly stored the paint waste had been razed and leveled. ADEM investigators located two areas on the property where paint cans had been left in small piles. The cans were deteriorated and contained either dried paint or none at all. Because of the extent of deterioration, the exact number of cans on-site was indeterminable; however, there was estimated to be a total of 25 paint cans. Several X-ray Fluorescence (XRF) readings showed no presence of lead in paint chips or the soil, with the exception of a single sample that did show slightly elevated levels of lead.

In conclusion, because the building has been razed and the land cleared, and the preliminary XRF testing revealed little or no lead on the property, no further action under AHSCF is planned for this site unless more evidence becomes available to warrant further investigation.



Deteriorated paint cans near south side of property

WARRIOR ASPHALT COMPANY
Tuscaloosa County
Reference # 9504

The Warrior Asphalt Company site (also known as Warrior Rosins) is located on Warrior Road, Tuscaloosa County, Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The site was operated as an asphalt plant from 1950 to 1985, at which time it was abandoned. ADEM investigated the site to determine if an eminent endangerment to the public was occurring at the site due to its accessibility and the wastes remaining on-site. The site is also in close proximity to the Black Warrior River, which raised concerns about contaminants reaching the nearby waterway.

On-site are sludge pits, lagoons, various storage tanks, and abandoned drums. ADEM investigators noted that several of the lagoons and sludge pits were leaking a black, viscous material. It appeared that some of the runoff from the lagoons was being captured in man-made collection pits, which were also leaking. The abandoned main building on-site was found to contain numerous drums of unknown materials. ADEM investigators also noted an oily, black substance leaking from the corner of the structure into a sludge pit outside. ADEM investigators found several denuded areas where vegetation was dead or dying.

EPA has scheduled an emergency cleanup of the site in late 2009/early 2010, weather permitting. At this time, ADEM is coordinating with EPA regarding all cleanup activities and future actions at the site.



Black substance in collection pit



Storage tanks near main building

LARRY MANNING SITE
Cullman County
Reference # 9505

The Larry Manning Site is located on Highway 278 East near Cullman, Cullman County, Alabama. ADEM personnel responded to a complaint about several abandoned drums on property adjacent to Highway 278. Two drums containing liquid material were sampled; laboratory analysis revealed the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOC's), lead, and cadmium at low concentrations. ADEM personnel also discovered two drums that were labeled as containing creosote. A visual inspection of the contents confirmed this. The remaining drums contained a solidified, tar-like substance, while others were empty or contained various metal scraps. The site was also littered with wood, metal, and plastic scraps, and several rusted vehicles. The two deteriorated buildings on-site also contained a substantial volume of scrap material and refuse.

The ADEM Solid Waste Branch has issued the site owner a Notice of Violation for the unauthorized storage of construction and demolition wastes. The owner has also been advised to retain the services of an environmental contractor that will sample and remove the drums for proper disposal. The property owner responded to ADEM and requested 180 days to complete cleanup activities at the site. ADEM approved this request, stipulating that the owner must provide the Department with copies of transport manifests and other relevant documents.

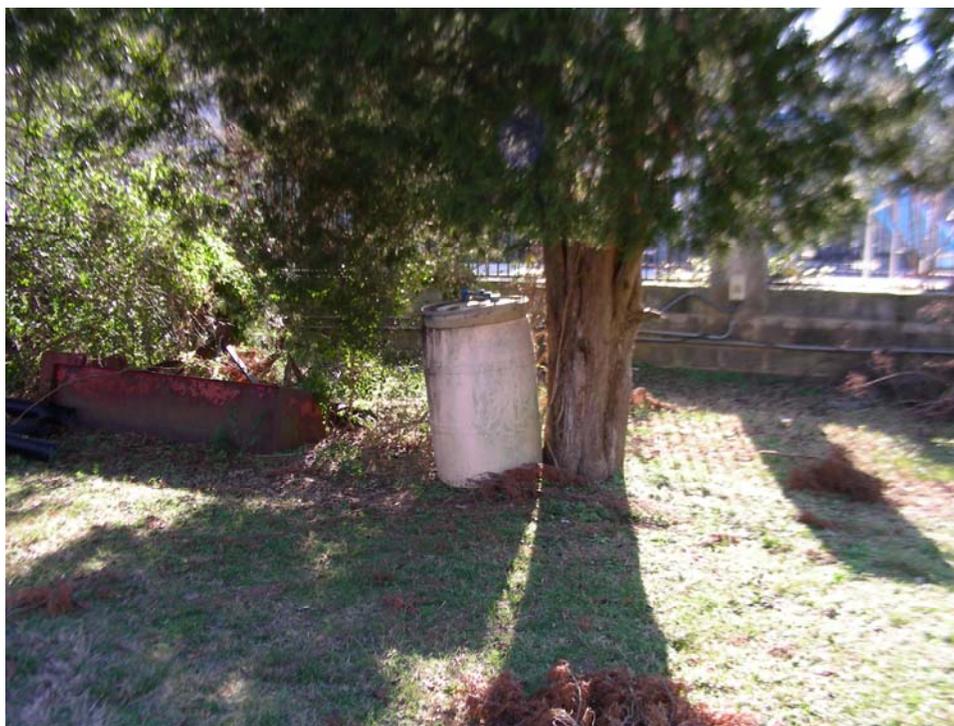


Drums and debris near Highway 278

BUCK ISLAND DRUM SITE
Marshall County
Reference # 9506

The Buck Island Drum Site is located on Buck Island Drive in Guntersville, Marshall County, Alabama near Lake Guntersville. A local resident complained to ADEM about an abandoned drum on his property. According to the resident, the drum of unknown material was left by a neighbor who had moved. ADEM personnel responded to the complaint and observed a white plastic drum containing an unknown liquid with a strong fuel smell. Samples revealed that the drum contained water and small amounts of benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene, and xylenes (BTEX).

ADEM contracted Giant Resource Recovery (GRR) in Attalla, Alabama to transport and properly dispose of the drum. GRR personnel removed the drum without incident and at this time there are no further actions planned for this site under AHSCF.



Abandoned drum on property line

TRAM AVENUE DRUM SITE
Mobile County
Reference # 9507

The Tram Avenue Drum Site is located on Tram Avenue in Bayou La Batre, Mobile County, Alabama. The US Coast Guard filed the complaint which was referred to the ADEM Assessment Section for investigation. ADEM personnel arrived on-site and found eight 55-gallon drums located in the northwest corner of the property near a docking area for fishing vessels. Two of the eight drums were empty and deteriorated. The remaining six drums contained unknown liquid material. Samples submitted to the Montgomery Environmental Laboratory indicated that the contents of the drums were hazardous.

During a follow-up visit to the site, ADEM investigators discovered that the drums had been moved. The property owner was contacted and he informed ADEM personnel that an outside contractor was responsible for removing the drums. ADEM staff were unable to find a transport permit for the contractor, who was allegedly engaged in used oil transport/disposal activities. Further investigation revealed that the contractor had been fined in the State of Florida for illegal transport of used oil in the late 1990's. Since the drums in question were illegally moved off-site by an unlicensed contractor, this site will be referred to the Compliance & Enforcement Section of the Industrial Hazardous Waste Branch for further investigation.



Abandoned drums near Bayou La Batre and ADEM personnel collecting samples

MAGNOLIA ST. RESIDENTIAL CHEMICALS

Baldwin County

Reference # 9508

The Magnolia Street Residential Chemicals Site is located on Magnolia Street in Loxley, Baldwin County, Alabama. Baldwin County EMA officials were contacted regarding an empty residence that allegedly contained a small-scale chemistry laboratory. The complainant had been renting the house to an older gentleman who was a chemist by profession. The occupant eventually moved to an assisted living facility, leaving behind a chemistry lab and numerous containers of hazardous chemicals. The former occupant also rented a U-Store-It unit in Loxley, Alabama where he had allegedly stored more containers of similar chemicals. Baldwin County EMA contacted ADEM to investigate both the residence and the storage unit, which were handled as separate sites.

ADEM personnel met with Baldwin County EMA officials at the site before entering the residence. The house contained a fully-equipped chemistry laboratory, fume hood, and various classes of hazardous chemicals including corrosives, poisons, and highly flammable substances. There were several containers of explosive powders, fuses, and cardboard tubing used for assembling fireworks.

Local EMA officials and ADEM performed hazardous waste determinations on the abandoned chemicals. The aggregate total of potential characteristic and listed hazardous wastes was determined to be less than two hundred and twenty pounds. On March 26, 2009, the Town of Loxley hired a contractor to remove chemicals from the residence. Some chemicals were able to be reused as commercial chemical products; all other chemicals were disposed as hazardous waste at an approved hazardous waste disposal facility. At this time, no further action under AHSCF is anticipated for this site.



Containers of chemicals inside the Magnolia St. residence

LOXLEY U-STOR-IT CHEMICALS
Baldwin County
Reference # 9509

The Loxley U-Stor-It Chemical Site is located at the U-Stor-It facility, 3825 South Hickory Street, Loxley, Baldwin County, Alabama. ADEM personnel were investigating a nearby residence (Site Reference 9508 above) that contained a laboratory and abandoned chemicals. The U-Stor-It unit was used by the owner of the Magnolia Street residence as a storage area for excess chemicals and supplies.

ADEM personnel and local EMA officials conducted an inspection of the storage unit and found numerous vessels containing chemical liquids, powders, and crystals. Many of these chemicals were labeled as hazardous. The storage unit also contained some electronic equipment and plastic storage bins.

Baldwin County EMA and ADEM performed hazardous waste determinations on the abandoned chemicals. The aggregate total of potential characteristic and listed hazardous wastes was determined to be less than two hundred and twenty pounds. On March 26, 2009, the Town of Loxley hired a contractor to remove chemicals from the rental storage unit. Some chemicals were able to be reused as commercial chemical products; all other chemicals were disposed as hazardous waste at an approved hazardous waste disposal facility. At this time, no further action under AHSCF is anticipated for this site.



Abandoned chemicals being prepared for removal from the U-Stor-It unit

SUPER STEEL SOUTH SITE
Etowah County
Reference # 9514

The Super Steel South Site is located at 637 McElroy Ave. in Glencoe, Etowah County, Alabama. ADEM employees who were conducting a NPDES inspection at a nearby facility notified the Assessment Section about chemical storage containers on the adjacent property. Preliminary investigation revealed that the property and building in question were owned by Super Steel South, which was involved in metal heat treating.

ADEM personnel investigated the exterior of the Super Steel South site and found a large nitrogen storage tank as well as a smaller plastic tank containing unknown material. Two metal 55-gallon drums that appeared to be leaking a white substance were also observed in this area. The exterior of the building was littered with scrap metal, wood, and plastic. The interior of the building contained multiple 250-gallon totes that were labeled with “corrosive” placards. ADEM personnel also found more 55-gallon drums as well as a sulfuric acid vat and what appeared to be metal plating baths.

ADEM contacted the owner of the site regarding these issues who explained that all hazardous waste on-site was being prepared for transport to sister facilities. Since there is an owner of the site, the site was referred to ADEM’s Industrial Hazardous Waste Branch for further RCRA action. The Compliance and Enforcement Section conducted a site inspection and confirmed that all hazardous materials had been properly removed. At this time, no further action under AHSCF is planned for this site.



Drums and totes staged for transport

ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNICAL AID, INC.
Jefferson County
Reference # 9518

The Environmental Technical Aid Site is located at 654 Carson Road North in Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama. An employee of a nearby business alerted the Jefferson County Health Department about abandoned waste on the property. The Assessment Section was notified of the situation and ADEM investigators responded to the complaint.

When ADEM employees arrived at the Site, they found several large volume storage tanks, assorted drums and totes, a large tanker-trailer, and three buildings. The cinder-block building had an awning that covered a large pile of oil-stained soil. There were also numerous 55-gallon drums in this area, and most appeared to contain unknown substances. A metal-sided shop directly north of the cinder-block building contained numerous drums, some empty. A small trailer that had served as offices for the former business was located east of the shop and contained business logos for Environmental Technical Aid. Other points of concern were several storage tanks that appeared to have overflowed during recent rain events. There were stained patches of soil throughout the site, including what appeared to be an area where oil had been dumped directly onto the ground.

At this time, the owner of the property is coordinating with ADEM's Voluntary Cleanup Program to sample and remediate areas of concern at the Site. Currently, all drums have been removed as well as major areas of soil contamination. Further sampling will be conducted in order to determine the full extent of soil contamination.



Drums and storage tanks, with cinder-block building in background

PADGETT CHEVRON DRUM SITE
Houston County
Reference # 9539

The Padgett Chevron Drum Site is located at the corner of Cherokee Avenue and Montgomery Highway in Dothan, Houston County, Alabama. While conducting an unrelated site visit, an ADEM employee was notified about two abandoned drums that had been staged in an empty lot for several years. ADEM personnel located the site and found two unlabeled 55-gallon drums in an empty lot adjacent to a residential area. The drums were staged next to a groundwater monitoring well, which led inspectors to the conclusion that the drums in question most likely contained purge water from the wells on-site. Further investigation revealed that the site was previously a gas station (Padgett Chevron) where an underground storage tank (UST) leak had occurred. Groundwater monitoring had been taking place at the site and the drums contained non-hazardous purge water. ADEM's Groundwater Branch was notified about the situation and the company responsible for sampling the wells will be contacted to remove the drums. No further action under AHSCF is planned for this site.



Monitoring well and purge-water drums

WETUMPKA HWY 231 DRUM SITE
Elmore County
Reference # 9540

The Wetumpka Highway 231 Drum Site is located in Wetumpka, Elmore County, Alabama. ADEM personnel were sent to investigate a complaint about several abandoned drums in an empty lot near Highway 231 in Wetumpka, Alabama. There were a total of five 55-gallon metal drums staged in the empty lot. During inspection of the drums, ADEM personnel were engaged by the property owner who explained that the drums contained purge water from groundwater monitoring wells on-site. According to the property owner, the lot was previously a gas station where an underground storage tank (UST) leak had occurred. Monitoring wells were established to determine the extent of groundwater contamination on-site, and the drums contained the purge water pumped from those wells. At this time, ADEM is having the environmental contractor that sampled the wells return to the site to remove the drums in question. No further action under AHSCF is planned for this site.



Purge-water drums near Highway 231

WHITE'S CHAPEL DRUM SITE
Etowah County
Site Number 9444

On February 17, 2007, the Etowah County EMA notified ADEM of discovery of several drums of unidentified liquids when a trash fire got out of control and burned a wooded area adjacent to 106 Bus Barn Road, White's Chapel, Alabama. Local fire departments responded to the fire and 10 drums were found in the debris from the fire. Initial investigation by ADEM determined that the owner, Carlos Bickers, once operated an auto body facility next to the burn site, and had placed the drums there 15 to 20 years before discovery. The 55-gallon drums contained various paint wastes.

In 2008 a follow-up visit was completed with assistance from the EPA Emergency Response and Removal Branch. The visit was to further assess the condition of the drums, but, upon arrival, it was found that the owner had removed the drums from the site. The drums had been removed during a three-week period between the last visit by the local EMA and the subsequent follow-up visit conducted by ADEM and EPA. With assistance from the local EMA, it was learned that Mr. Bickers had consolidated all paint wastes into one drum, poured rainwater from the remaining drums and removed all drums to his property. The empty drums were crushed and sent to a metal recycler. Analysis of the paint waste in the one drum remaining is still pending and is being paid for by the owner. Once analytical results have been received, a determination will be made for the appropriate disposal of the remaining drum of waste.



Area where White's Chapel drums were formerly located

PLEASANT GROVE PCB SITE
Jefferson County
Site Number 9489

The Pleasant Grove PCB Site is located at 916 7th Street, in Pleasant Grove, Jefferson County, Alabama. ADEM received a call from the Jefferson County EMA about a transformer oil spill in a residential area. There were three transformers found in a shed at a private residence on 7th Street. One of the transformers had fallen over and spilled oil on the concrete floor of the shed. The Jefferson County EMA along with Alabama Power representatives determined that the transformers likely contained PCB oil, and that ADEM involvement was required. ADEM investigators arrived at the site and found three transformers and one capacitor inside the shed; the capacitor was labeled as non-PCB. Oil samples were collected from all three transformers and sent to the ADEM Central Laboratory to test for the presence of PCB's. Sample analysis revealed that all three transformers did not contain PCB's. No further action for this site is planned under AHSCF at this time.



Transformers in residential shed

AMERICAN BRASS, INC.
Henry County
Site Number 9000*

The American Brass, Inc. site (ABI) is located on Alabama State Highway 134, in Headland, Henry County, Alabama. It was a secondary brass smelter/foundry facility that operated from 1978 to 1992. ABI was placed on the Superfund National Priorities List on May 10, 1999. There is no financially viable responsible party to remediate the site, which requires EPA to use federal funds for site remediation. Superfund requires a 10% state match if federal funds are used for site remediation. EPA and ADEM have entered into a Superfund State Contract which documents the financial responsibilities of each for the remediation at the site. EPA will use funds from the Superfund to pay for 90% of site remediation cost, which is estimated as \$6,328,796. The State is responsible for 10% of the total project cost, not to exceed \$632,879.

Beginning in 2009 and annually thereafter through 2013, EPA will invoice ADEM for \$100,000 per year. In 2014, EPA will invoice ADEM for the remaining portion of the 10% cost, not to exceed \$132,879. ADEM will pay the State share of the project cost through the Alabama Hazardous Substance Cleanup Fund.



Foundry brick staged for removal



Staged brass foundry waste awaiting removal

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 \$36,193.81 from October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009.

Site Name	Action Taken	Cost
AHSCF General Management	Administrative, clerical support, initial Investigations, equipment	\$16,386.59
Cook Road Paint Waste	Initial site visit and reconnaissance	\$488.02
Warrior Asphalt Company	Follow-up assessment for Emergency Removal	\$719.38
Larry Manning Site	Initial site visit and waste sample processing	\$302.50
Buck Island Drum Site	Initial site visit, waste sample processing, and drum removal fees	\$1,239.78
Tram Avenue Drum Site	Initial site visit, follow-up visit, and waste sample processing fees	\$2,468.96
Magnolia Street Residential Chemicals	Initial and follow-up site visits	\$974.79
Loxley U-Stor-It Chemicals	Initial and follow-up site visits	\$165.05
Super Steel South Site	Initial site visit and reconnaissance	\$534.80
ETA Environmental Tech Aid	Initial site visit and reconnaissance	\$2,420.58
Padgett Chevron Drum Site	Complaint investigation and reconnaissance	\$128.04
Wetumpka Highway 231 Drum Site	Initial site visit and reconnaissance	\$224.26
Whites Chapel Drum Site	Correspondence with local EMA regarding sample analysis	\$397.78
Pleasant Grove PCB Site	Initial site visit and sample processing	\$745.83
Laboratory Costs - Total	All Sites	\$8,997.45
Total Cost	-----	\$36,193.81

Site Location Map

