# Alabama Hazardous Substance Cleanup Fund 2010 Annual Report





Land Division Environmental Services Branch Assessment Section

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# **2010 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.

#### Hulsey Farm Site

Complaint investigation regarding discarded mercury switches in a dilapidated barn in Cleburne County.

#### ➢ <u>Gulf Hauling Site</u>

Complaint investigation regarding abandoned containers of arsenic and pesticides in a barn in Dallas County.

#### Cottonwood Highway 55 Drums

Investigation of drums stored beneath the flooring of a residential greenhouse in Houston County.

#### Bunn Brothers Materials, Inc. Landfill

Complaint investigation about oily runoff from the site of a former incineration facility. Site was referred to ADEM Water Division for further action.

#### Herd Street Drum

Investigation and removal of an abandoned drum containing ignitable used oil in Elmore County.

#### > <u>Deep South Plating & Service Co.</u>

Investigation of an abandoned electroplating facility in Autauga County. The site was referred to the EPA Emergency Response and Removal Branch for further action. Site cleanup activities were completed in September 2010.

#### > Cahaba Valley Trace Meth Lab

Investigation and sample collection at a private drinking water well where byproducts of methamphetamine production were allegedly discarded.

#### Reichhold Chemicals

Complaint investigation at the former Reichhold Chemicals facility, initiated by a congressional inquiry. The site is now being evaluated under the Superfund program.

#### Simmons Road Drum

Guidance and assistance with the disposal of a small drum of used oil at a residence in Prattville.

#### Coosa County Road 12 Drum Site

Complaint investigation about an abandoned drum along the side of County Road 12 in Coosa County. The drum was sampled and properly disposed of at a municipal landfill.

#### > <u>Clarence Brown Road Drums</u>

Investigation of abandoned drums on rural private property in Washington County. The drums were subsequently removed from the site for disposal.

#### Cullman County O&M Shop

Complaint investigation of buried drums of tar and/or oil on Cullman County Road Department property. Several drums were excavated, sampled, and staged for later removal.

#### Deer Creek Drums

Complaint investigation of drums allegedly containing methanol on a residential property in Montgomery. The drums were found to contain vegetable oil, stored for later use in the production of bio-diesel.

#### > McCullough Petroleum Spill

Investigation of a diesel spill from a large capacity tank in Montgomery. The site was referred to the ADEM Groundwater Branch for further action.

#### > Shelby Co. Disposal and Scrap Tire Site

Investigation of a scrap tire dump site to determine if any hazardous substances had also been discarded. The site is being managed under the Solid Waste Branch at ADEM.

#### Fussy Hill Road Drums

Coordination with EPA regarding the removal of several abandoned drums of solvents in Madison County.

#### > <u>Warrior Asphalt Company</u>

Coordination with EPA regarding the cleanup of the site and construction of a slurry containment wall. ADEM will continue to monitor the site.

#### Larry Manning Site

Follow-up visit to the site to confirm cleanup activities. Coordination with Solid Waste Branch regarding enforcement proceedings.

#### > <u>Tram Avenue Drum Site</u>

Investigation of an illegal used oil transporter connected with the disappearance of drums at the site.

#### Environmental Technical Aid, Inc.

Follow-up site visit to assess progress of cleanup activities. The site is currently managed under the Voluntary Cleanup Program at ADEM.

#### Stagecoach Road Drum Site

Investigation of abandoned drum of waste paint at a former business in Baldwin County. The drum will be sampled and removed from the site by Safety Kleen.

#### Highway 25 ROW Columbiana

Coordination and oversight of cleanup and removal of lead contaminated soils along the right-of-way of Highway 25 in Shelby County.

### About the Alabama Hazardous Substance Cleanup Fund

The Alabama Hazardous Substance Cleanup Fund (AHSCF) was established in 1989 by act of the Alabama Legislature (<u>Code of Alabama</u> 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 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 funding may also be used for long term maintenance and monitoring of sites which have historically been addressed under CERCLA. Since the inception of AHSCF, 353 sites have been addressed, with 312 sites remediated to a point where no further action is warranted.

The Act allows the staff to respond to citizens' complaints regarding improper disposal of hazardous substances and other toxic materials and provides the staff right of entry in order to perform these investigations. After initial response to a site, remediation may occur under either Superfund or the hazardous waste programs, or under AHSCF depending on the specific site conditions. Regardless, 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 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 included in this category as well.

Funding for AHSCF activities is generated by legislative appropriations, fees from hazardous waste disposal at the Chemical Waste Management hazardous waste landfill in Emelle, Alabama, and reimbursements from potentially responsible parties (PRPs). For fiscal year 2010, legislative appropriations and tax revenue were \$120,632.20.

## Site Specific Information

#### HULSEY FARM SITE Cleburne County Reference # 348-9546

The Hulsey Farm site is on Baber Street in Heflin, Cleburne County, Alabama. The ADEM Field Office in Birmingham, Alabama, received a phone call from EPA Region 4 concerning a citizen's complaint about abandoned mercury switches on a property. The complainant reported that mercury switches had been dumped at the site many years before and there were concerns that the switches could be damaged and leaking mercury into the soil. After an initial visit by the ADEM Birmingham Field Office investigator, the site was referred to the Assessment Section to be managed under the AHSCF program.

ADEM personnel responded to the complaint and found several mercury switches on the ground next to a collapsed barn. The owner of the site stated that he had recently purchased the property as an investment and was unaware of anything harmful that may have been buried on-site. The owner had the barn removed, and the removal crew recovered several cubic feet of mercury switches from the debris. During the removal, ADEM personnel also discovered a smaller cache of switches in an old trash pile near the barn. The owner was advised to remove all discarded mercury switches from the property and have them transported to a recycling facility that could reclaim the mercury. ADEM requested that after completing the removal, the owner provide documentation that the switches had been received by the facility. At this time ADEM is awaiting notification from the owner that the switches have been transferred to an appropriate recycling facility.



**Dismantled mercury switch** 

HULSEY FARM SITE Cleburne County Reference # 348-9546



Dilapidated barn where mercury switches were discovered



Mercury switches collected and awaiting disposal

#### GULF HAULING SITE Dallas County Reference # 348-9547

The Gulf Hauling site is on a rural farm at 10965 County Rd. 21 in Orrville, Dallas County, Alabama. A complaint was received concerning a barn on the property that allegedly contained buckets of arsenic and pesticides. ADEM personnel responded to the complaint and located the barn in question. The dilapidated barn was found to contain several containers of non-hazardous materials such as paint and joint-remover. Additionally, ADEM personnel found a small plastic bucket containing lead arsenate, a commonly used insecticide and rodenticide that was banned for use on food crops in the United States in 1988. Because of the small amount of lead arsenate discovered in the barn, it was determined that the compound was likely being used for its intended purpose as a local rodenticide. Inside the barn, ADEM personnel also found two containers of Rotenone, a fish poison commonly used by biologists to determine fish populations or to control invasive fish species. Rotenone does not persist in the environment for long periods of time, and is only mildly toxic to mammals. It did not appear that these chemicals were being misused or disposed of illegally, and the minimal guantities present in the barn did not represent a threat to human health or the environment. No further action is planned for the Gulf Hauling Site.



Containers of paint products and pesticides

#### COTTONWOOD HIGHWAY 55 DRUMS Houston County Reference # 348-9549

The Cottonwood Highway 55 Drums Site is at 8015 County Road 55 in Cottonwood, Houston County, Alabama. In December 2009, the new owners of a residential property in Cottonwood contacted the County Health Department when they discovered approximately 50 drums in a greenhouse on the property. The 55-gallon drums had been placed beneath the wood flooring in the greenhouse. Initial research revealed that drums of water are commonly used as heat sinks to help regulate temperatures in greenhouses.

In January 2010, ADEM investigators responded to the site, took photographs, and sampled several drums to assess their contents. Analysis confirmed that they contained water with trace amounts of styrene and ethylbenzene. It was determined that the levels of these constituents were too high to allow for disposal directly onto the ground, and a vacuum truck was contracted to remove the contents of the drums and transport them to a Dothan wastewater treatment plant. About 2,800 gallons of water was pumped from the drums. The owner was responsible for removing the empty drums from the site. No further action is anticipated for this site.



Drums found under flooring in greenhouse

#### BUNN BROTHERS MATERIALS, INC. LANDFILL Tuscaloosa County Reference # 348-9552

The Bunn Brothers Material, Inc. Landfill site is on Warrior Road in Holt, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. While inspecting another site on Warrior Road, ADEM personnel were approached by an employee from the nearby Warrior Asphalt Company. The employee stated that during heavy rain events, a black, odoriferous, oily water would run down the hill onto Warrior Asphalt's property and enter their stormwater drainage system. The complainant indicated that a lagoon containing a black substance was located on property up-gradient from Warrior Asphalt, and that this may have been the source of the oily runoff.

In February 2010, ADEM personnel conducted a site visit at the Bunn Brothers property to investigate the complaints. Throughout the site were piles of household trash and other debris, indicating that illegal dumping had occurred. Additionally, ADEM personnel discovered several large mounds of soil covered with black plastic and 24 drums containing unknown substances; ADEM personnel labeled the drums for later identification. The lagoon was located, but it appeared to contain only rainwater at the time of inspection. The lagoon appeared to drain through a large PVC pipe down a steep embankment to a nearby creek.

The Assessment Section contacted ADEM's Solid Waste Branch to coordinate the removal of the household trash, debris, and drums. According to ADEM records, Bunn Brothers operated a soil incinerator at the site under the company name of Sunbelt Resources, Inc. The large mounds discovered on-site were composed of soil contaminated with oil and petroleum products; the incinerator was used to burn these constituents to decontaminate the soil. The oily runoff described in the complaint may have originated from these mounds of soil. The owners of the property were contacted, and the entrance was secured to prevent further access to the site. During a subsequent visit, Assessment Section personnel discovered that the drums had been removed from the site by an unknown party. These drums were believed to contain oil or petroleum contaminated soil. The site was deferred to ADEM's Water Division for further evaluation for possible NPDES violations. No further action under the AHSCF program is needed at this site.

#### BUNN BROTHERS MATERIALS, INC. LANDFILL Tuscaloosa County Reference # 348-9552



Piles of oil-contaminated soil covered with plastic



Abandoned drums containing unknown substances

#### HERD STREET DRUM Elmore County Reference # 348-9554

The Herd Street Drum site is on Herd Street in Tallassee, Elmore County, Alabama. In February 2010, ADEM was notified by local officials that a 55-gallon metal drum had been dumped in a ravine that intersects Herd Street in Tallassee, Alabama. ADEM personnel responded to the site, utilizing a drum lift cradle and power winch to hoist the drum up 30 feet to the road-level. Other containers located in the ravine were old, rusted, and empty. The drum removed was transported to the city shop on Gilmore Avenue where it was staged and sampled. The drum appeared to contain used oil, and sample results confirmed this; however, the material was hazardous due to ignitability. The drum was transported to a fuel blender and disposed of properly. No further action is needed for this site.



ADEM personnel removing drum from ravine

#### DEEP SOUTH PLATING & SERVICE CO. Autauga County Reference # 348-9555

The Deep South Plating site is at 914 Industrial Park Road in Prattville, Autauga County, Alabama. In March 2010, the Assessment Section was notified by a City of Prattville building inspector that a former electroplating facility appeared to have been abandoned with drums and plating vats remaining inside. The site was initially investigated under the AHSCF program, and responding personnel discovered multiple drums, plating vats, and other containers throughout the interior and exterior of the building. There was evidence that many of the containers had deteriorated and leaked their contents directly onto the floor of the facility. Although many drums were unlabeled, it was noted that several contained cyanide compounds, corrosives, and caustics. The building was in an extremely deteriorated condition with multiple steel beams highly corroded. ADEM immediately notified the EPA Region 4 Emergency Response and Removal Branch (ERRB) and an emergency response was coordinated.

Within days of reporting the site to the ERRB, EPA contractors arrived and began assessing and categorizing the wastes in the building. During the initial evaluation, extreme pH levels were detected in puddles of rainwater on the floor of the facility and some areas showed low levels of cyanide gas. The ERRB contractors moved all drums and containers to the interior of the facility, segregating and staging them on pallets to avoid contact with rainwater. Before leaving the site, the EPA contractors secured the open bay doors with plywood to prevent access.

In June 2010, the ERRB re-mobilized to the site to begin removal and cleanup activities. ADEM personnel were present on-site throughout the cleanup and provided information and support as needed. The ERRB contractors secured leaking drums and containers in over-pack drums, and plating vats were pumped into large totes for transport off-site. Hazardous and non-hazardous debris were removed from the floor and placed in proper containers for disposal. After all materials were removed from the interior of the building, it was razed and all metal sent to a recycler. Sand filters and in-ground clarifiers in the facility wastewater treatment system were excavated and removed for disposal. Portions of the building's concrete pad tested positive for heavy metals and were excavated and removed for disposal. Following the removal of the concrete pad and other structures, the site was capped with gravel and all disturbed areas were covered with hay and grass seed to prevent erosion. Confirmatory sampling throughout the site indicated that there was no contamination present in the soil below the concrete pad or in the nearby drainage ditch. At this time, the site is being evaluated under the federal Superfund program to determine if further action is necessary.

#### DEEP SOUTH PLATING & SERVICE CO. Autauga County Reference # 348-9555



Abandoned drums, plating vats, and debris inside the facility



Hazardous materials secured and segregated during EPA response

#### DEEP SOUTH PLATING & SERVICE CO. Autauga County Reference # 348-9555



EPA removal of building, concrete pad, and treatment pits



Deep South Plating site, post-cleanup

#### CAHABA VALLEY TRACE METH LAB Shelby County Reference # 348-9565

The Cahaba Valley Trace Meth Lab site is at 4968 County Road 14 in Birmingham, Shelby County, Alabama. Local law enforcement contacted ADEM after raiding a suspected methamphetamine lab in a residence along County Road 14. Interviews with neighbors revealed that the operators of the methamphetamine lab may have dumped chemicals and other materials in an old drinking water well behind the residence. Nearby residents also stated they had witnessed "flashes" emerging from the well and ADEM personnel suspected that this was a result of discarded lithium reacting with the water in the well.

ADEM personnel met with the Shelby County Sherriff's Department to conduct an inspection of the well. Pronged hooks were lowered into the well in an attempt to retrieve any solid materials that may have been discarded. The well did not appear to contain any solid refuse at the time. When an ADEM Field Operations team attempted to collect water samples, they discovered that several used syringes had been discarded in the well. Sample analysis did not reveal any elevated levels of hazardous constituents in the well water. ADEM has contacted the property owner to provide guidance for closing the well to prevent similar incidents. No further action is planned for this site under the AHSCF.



ADEM personnel inspecting and sampling the well

#### REICHHOLD CHEMICALS Tuscaloosa County Reference # 348-9566

The Reichhold Chemicals site is on Reichhold Road in Holt, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. In March 2010, the Assessment Section was contacted by EPA which requested information regarding the Reichhold Chemical site due to a congressional inquiry regarding a complaint from concerned citizens in the area. According to ADEM records, this facility operated from 1944 to 1987 and manufactured resins and adhesives. The site generated several process wastes including RCRA characteristic wastes D001 and D008, as well as U013 listed waste. During the time of operation the site was permitted through the ADEM Water, Air, and Land Divisions, and both ADEM and EPA had roles in the site closure. Due to the congressional inquiry, EPA requested that the Assessment Section conduct on-site reconnaissance to determine if the site posed an immediate threat to human health or the environment.

In March 2010, Assessment Section personnel traveled to the site to inspect the site and determine the condition of old landfills and lagoons previously operated on-site. An extensive walkthrough of the property did not reveal any serious environmental threats that would warrant further action. Several empty, deteriorated drums were discovered, as well as small chunks of what appeared to be an unknown resin material. The areas formerly used as landfills were overgrown with vegetation and there were no signs of leaching or runoff from these areas. The former lagoons appeared to have been backfilled many years ago and there were no signs of leaching or denuded vegetation in the area. The only remaining structures or equipment on-site were several small concrete pads and old pipes (metal and plastic). This site is in a rural area near the Black Warrior River and other industrial operations are in the area. There were no visible signs that hazardous substances have been released to the environment from the site, which has been inactive for over 20 years. Currently, the site is being further evaluated under the federal CERCLA program and no further action is anticipated under the AHSCF program.

#### REICHHOLD CHEMICALS Tuscaloosa County Reference # 348-9566



One of several empty, rusted drums on-site



ADEM personnel taking GPS coordinates of an old landfill

#### SIMMONS ROAD DRUM Autauga County Reference # 348-9567

The Simmons Road Drum site is at 203 Simmons Road in Prattville, Autauga County, Alabama. The Assessment Section was contacted by a Prattville resident whose father had recently passed away, leaving behind a 15-gallon drum that contained used oil from lawnmowers and automobiles. Because the resident was disabled and could not move the drum by herself, Assessment Section personnel assisted with the disposal of the drum as a public service gesture. After inspecting the drum's contents, the drum was removed and transported to an automotive service company located in Prattville for recycling the used oil. No further action is necessary at the site.



Drum of used oil at Prattville residence

#### COOSA COUNTY ROAD 12 DRUM SITE Coosa County Reference # 348-9570

The Coosa County Road 12 Drum Site is along County Road 12, near Newman Road in Coosa County, Alabama. In April 2010, ADEM received a complaint from a local resident regarding three abandoned 55-gallon drums along County Road 12. Before ADEM personnel could respond to the site, two of the drums were moved by unknown parties. The remaining drum was left on its side and appeared to be leaking its contents directly onto the ground.

ADEM personnel arrived at the site, secured the leaking drum, and transported it to the Coosa County Highway Department storage yard for staging in a secured area. ADEM personnel sampled the drum to assess its contents. The drum was about two-thirds full and contained a dark brown/black liquid. Samples were collected for analysis of Volatile Organic Compounds, Semi-Volatile Organic Compounds, pesticides, herbicides, and metals. Sample analysis indicated that the drum's contents were non-hazardous, and a permit was obtained to dispose of the drum at a municipal solid waste landfill. No further action is expected for this site.



Abandoned drum discovered along County Road 12

#### CLARENCE BROWN ROAD DRUMS Washington County Reference # 348-9571

The Clarence Brown Road Drums site is along a dirt road off Highway 45 near Chatom, Washington County, Alabama. In April 2010, a local citizen discovered 17 abandoned 55-gallon drums dumped in an unused and undeveloped area of his property. The drums appeared to contain paint-related flammable solvents and sludge, with some drums showing minor signs of leaking. The property owner reported the discovery to the Washington County Health Department, which promptly notified ADEM.

ADEM personnel contacted the EPA field office in Mobile, Alabama, and an emergency response was initiated to secure the drums, perform field-testing, collect waste samples, and to relocate the drums to a secure facility until proper disposal of the waste could be coordinated. Liquid wastes were consolidated by EPA contractors into a 250-gallon tote, and drums containing sludge were over-packed in 85-gallon containment drums. The drums and the 250-gallon tote were staged at the local county road department facility until sample analyses were completed. The drums and the tote were then transported to a regulated facility in Arkansas for proper disposal. No further action is necessary for this site.



EPA contractors collecting waste samples from drums

#### CLARENCE BROWN ROAD DRUMS Washington County Reference # 348-9571



EPA contractors over-packing and staging drums and totes



Drums and totes secured and ready for transport off-site

#### CULLMAN COUNTY O&M SHOP Cullman County Reference # 348-9573

The Cullman County O&M Shop site is at 3190 County Road 438 in Cullman County, Alabama. In April 2010, an anonymous complaint was received alleging that the Cullman County Road Department West Shop had buried several drums of used oil on its property east of the main facilities. Since the site is an active facility, personnel from ADEM's Governmental Hazardous Waste Branch were assigned to investigate the complaint. Assessment Section personnel, working under the AHSCF program, assisted with technical support throughout the investigation.

In late April 2010, ADEM staff responded to the site and met with the Superintendent of the Cullman County Road Department West Shop. Assessment Section personnel used industrial metal detectors to scan the area east of the main facilities to determine if any large metallic objects were buried in the subsurface. ADEM personnel were able to locate several Areas of Interest (AOI) that warranted further investigation. In May 2010, ADEM personnel returned to the site to excavate these areas. The excavation was done by County Road Department staff using County equipment. At the first AOI, 16 drums were discovered at a depth of 6-7 feet below ground surface. Many of these 55-gallon drums were leaking what appeared to be tar and/or used oil. The decomposing carcass of a cow was also discovered in the soil layer above the drums. During the excavation, ADEM personnel observed evidence of buried tar stratified throughout burial pit.

Two smaller AOIs were also excavated during the inspection. A layer of buried tar was uncovered in one of these areas, discovered at a depth of 6-8 inches below ground surface. The remains of a burn-pile were found buried at a depth of 12 inches in another nearby AOI.

The Superintendent of the Cullman County Road Department West Shop was advised to stage the drums in a secure location as to prevent their leaking. Laboratory analysis of the drums' contents revealed only trace amounts of hazardous constituents. The site was referred to ADEM Solid Waste Branch for further action. The waste will be shipped to a lined landfill for proper disposal. No further AHSCF action is recommended for the site.

#### CULLMAN COUNTY O&M SHOP Cullman County Reference # 348-9573



Excavation of burial pit on Cullman Road Department property



Drums removed from burial pit

#### DEER CREEK DRUMS Montgomery County Reference # 348-9574

The Deer Creek Drums site is at 8786 Vaughn Road in Montgomery, Montgomery County, Alabama. In April 2010, ADEM received a citizen's complaint about abandoned drums of methanol located on a nearby property. Assessment Section personnel responded that same day to investigate the property. ADEM personnel discovered 15 abandoned 55-gallon drums, four chemical totes, numerous 5-gallon buckets, and various other containers on the property. Four of the drums and one of the chemical totes had contents and the rest contained trash or were empty. The owners of the property in question were present at the time, and they revealed that the property was being temporarily utilized to store used vegetable oil for their small bio-diesel business. Despite the labels for methanol on some of the drums, the four drums with contents did contain only vegetable oil. According to the owners, the chemical tote contained used motor oil used as fuel to heat the nearby shop. None of the containers appeared to be leaking at the time of inspection. The owners of the property stated that they were in the process of moving all drums and debris to their business location on Fairview Avenue and that the property would be later sold. Because no evidence of hazardous substances exists on the property, there are no further AHSCF actions planned for this site.



Drums of vegetable oil stored near residential property

#### MCCULLOUGH PETROLEUM SPILL Montgomery County Reference # 348-9576

The McCullough Petroleum Spill site is at 255 Hunter Loop Road in Montgomery. Montgomery County, Alabama. In June 2010, ADEM received an anonymous report of a large diesel fuel spill at a local trucking company terminal on Hunter Loop Road. Assessment Section personnel arrived at the site and discovered an area where a high volume of diesel fuel had leaked directly onto the ground and was standing in pools. The spill originated from an above ground storage tank that appeared to have a 7,500 gallon capacity. Although it was unknown how many gallons were spilled, ADEM personnel believed that most of the tank contents had leaked out. The Assessment Section referred the site to the ADEM Groundwater Branch, which issued an incident letter requesting that the responsible party submit a work plan to assess the extent of soil and groundwater contamination. The site operator did not provide an adequate response to the incident letter and the Groundwater Branch issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to the company. When the company failed to address the issues raised in the NOV, the Groundwater Branch issued an enforcement order to the responsible party to ensure that all contamination will be properly managed or removed from the site. At this time, no further actions are planned under the AHSCF program.



Above-ground diesel tank and leaked fuel

#### SHELBY CO. DISPOSAL AND SCRAP TIRE SITE Shelby County Reference # 348-9578

The Shelby Co. Disposal and Scrap Tire Site is on a rural property along Long Walk Drive in Columbiana, Shelby County, Alabama. In July 2010, a complaint was received regarding illegal disposal of scrap tires and other materials. Aerial photographs of the property confirmed the presence of tires, debris, and trailers. During the investigation of the site, Assessment Section personnel accompanied a member of the Solid Waste Branch to the property to determine if any hazardous materials were present.

The site is a large cleared area along a dirt road littered with multiple piles of electrical cable, tires, and other debris. A large pile of tires about 500 feet long and 60 feet wide was discovered on the property. There was also evidence that tires had been buried at the site. Several old semi-trailers were discovered, two of which contained shredded tires. During the investigation, Assessment Section personnel did not observe any drums, containers, or other evidence of abandoned hazardous substances. The ADEM Solid Waste Branch is working with the property owner to have the tires and other debris removed and disposed of at an appropriate facility. The Assessment Section does not anticipate any further actions at the site under the AHSCF program.



Discarded and buried tires on rural property in Shelby County

#### SHELBY CO. DISPOSAL AND SCRAP TIRE SITE Shelby County Reference # 348-9578



Semi-trailers containing scrap tires and tire fluff



One of several piles of electrical cables and other debris

#### FUSSY HILL ROAD DRUMS Madison County Reference # 348-9360

The Fussy Hill Road Drums site is at 461 Fussy Hill Road in New Market, Madison County, Alabama. In August 2004, ADEM received a complaint regarding numerous abandoned drums near the back of a residential lot in New Market, Alabama. Upon arrival at the site, Assessment Section personnel discovered 36 abandoned 55-gallon drums, which appeared to contain paint waste and solvents. Several drums appeared to be leaking, and soils around some of the drums showed staining. The site was referred to the EPA ERRB for further action. EPA response was delayed by the events of Hurricane Katrina and the site was backlogged for several years. In 2010, ADEM contacted EPA to follow up on the status of the site, discovering that no removal actions had occurred after the Hurricane Katrina cleanup. The response was re-activated, and ERRB contractors mobilized to the site to collect samples, over-pack the drums, and remove them from the property. Sample analyses of liquid wastes indicated high levels of the solvents methyl ethyl ketone, toluene, benzene, and xylene. Soil samples showed elevated concentrations of lead. During the cleanup, ERRB contractors consolidated the original 36 drums of paint waste into 85-gallon steel salvage drums. The remaining drums of solvents and contaminated rainwater were transferred to 95gallon poly over-pack drums. In July 2010, contaminated soils were excavated and drums and soil were sent for disposal. EPA provided ADEM with the appropriate documentation regarding the remediation of the site. All issues at the site appear to have been addressed and no further AHSCF actions are planned.



Abandoned drums of paint waste, prior to EPA removal

#### WARRIOR ASPHALT COMPANY Tuscaloosa County Reference # 348-9504

The Warrior Asphalt Company site (also known as Warrior Rosins) is on Warrior Road in Holt, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. Warrior Asphalt Company began operations in the early 1950s. It is unknown when Warrior Asphalt ceased operations. Adjacent businesses (Warrior Roofing and Warrior Asphalt Refining Company) used the main building as an equipment repair shop for several years. Assessment Section personnel investigated the site to determine if it posed an immediate threat to public health and the environment due to its accessibility and close proximity to the Black Warrior River.

During the investigation, ADEM personnel discovered two lagoons, runoff collection pits, various storage tanks, and abandoned drums. Investigators noted that the lagoons and several pits were leaking a black, viscous material that appeared to be some type of tar. Collection pits and skimmers in drainage courses downstream from the lagoons were also leaking a tar-like substance. The abandoned main building on-site contained numerous drums of unknown materials, some of which were leaking from the corner of the structure into a containment pit outside. Throughout the site were several denuded areas where vegetation was dead or dying. Due to the scale of the contamination and volume of wastes, the site was referred to EPA ERRB for further action.

In January 2010, EPA mobilized to the site to collect samples, clear access roads, and prepare for the cleanup. In October 2010, EPA began cleanup activities at the site, removing tar from the smaller pits for consolidation in the lagoons. The abandoned drums will be sampled and removed to an appropriate disposal facility. After extensive discussion and coordination with ADEM, EPA determined that excavation of the lagoons for incineration or disposal would be cost prohibitive. EPA decided that the material would be left in the lagoons, the banks of the lagoons would be strengthened, and a slurry containment wall would be constructed around both lagoons to prevent further leaching. After EPA cleanup activities are complete, ADEM will continue to monitor the site under the AHSCF program to assure that the slurry wall and cap on the lagoons retain their structural integrity.

#### WARRIOR ASPHALT COMPANY Tuscaloosa County Reference # 348-9504



Main lagoon containing tar and asphalt-related waste



Lagoon runoff collection pit

#### WARRIOR ASPHALT COMPANY Tuscaloosa County Reference # 348-9504



EPA reinforcing the lagoon banks



EPA constructing a slurry containment wall around the lagoons

#### LARRY MANNING SITE Cullman County Reference # 348-9505

The Larry Manning Site is on Highway 278 East near Cullman, Cullman County, Alabama. In January 2009, Assessment Section personnel responded to a complaint about several abandoned drums on a property adjacent to Highway 278. A majority of the drums on-site contained solid waste, but two drums contained creosote and two other drums contained unknown liquid substances. The drums containing the unknown liquids were sampled and analyses indicated that they contained Volatile Organic Compounds and some heavy metals at low concentrations. The site was also littered with wood, metal, plastic scrap, and rusted vehicles. Two deteriorated buildings on-site contained a substantial volume of scrap material and refuse. The site was referred to the ADEM Solid Waste Branch which issued a NOV to the property owner for unauthorized storage of construction and demolition wastes. The owner was advised to retain the services of an environmental contractor that would sample the wastes, perform an adequate determination, and properly dispose of the drums.

After a follow-up visit in July 2010, it was discovered that the property owner had not fully addressed all the solid and hazardous waste issues on-site. The Solid Waste Branch issued a second NOV to the property owner, who requested an extension for cleanup activities. The Assessment Section has been coordinating with the Solid Waste Branch to have the remaining drums and debris removed from the site. At this time, the property owner is in the process of removing all remaining items from the site. The ADEM Land Division will be conducting follow-up inspections to confirm that the site has been adequately remediated.



Drums and debris found remaining on-site

#### TRAM AVENUE DRUM SITE Mobile County Reference # 348-9507

The Tram Avenue Drum Site is 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 in late February 2009 and found eight abandoned 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. Assessment Section personnel collected waste samples from the drums and analyses indicated the drum contents were hazardous due to ignitibility.

During a follow-up visit to the site in April 2009, ADEM investigators discovered that the drums had been moved. The property owner was contacted and he informed ADEM personnel that he had contracted a waste hauler to remove the drums. Assessment Section personnel were unable to find a transport permit for the contractor, who was allegedly engaged in used oil transport/disposal activities. Further inquiries 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, the site was referred to the Industrial Hazardous Waste Branch for further investigation. There are no further actions planned for the site under the AHSCF program.



Abandoned drums near fishing dock, prior to removal

#### ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNICAL AID, INC. Jefferson County Reference # 348-9518

The Environmental Technical Aid site is at 654 Carson Road North in Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama. In 2009, an employee at a nearby business alerted the Jefferson County Health Department about abandoned waste on the property. The Assessment Section was notified and ADEM investigators responded to the complaint in early April 2009. When ADEM personnel arrived at the site, they found several large volume storage tanks, assorted drums and totes, a large tanker-trailer, and a large area where oil-stained soil was being stored in what appeared to be a soil-treatment area. It also appeared that oil had been dumped directly onto the ground around the site. The previous business that operated at this site was an environmental company that transported and treated petroleum-contaminated soils. Records are limited, but it appears that after the company went bankrupt, ownership of the property reverted to the New South Federal Savings Bank, which is now the responsible party for the site.

In June 2009, the property owner entered into the ADEM Voluntary Cleanup Program to address problems at the site. Since then, all drums, oil-stained soils, storage tanks, and other structures have been removed. The environmental contractors have begun assessing the site to determine if contamination exists in the soil or groundwater. The site will remain in the Voluntary Cleanup Program until it can be demonstrated that all environmental issues have been properly addressed. No further AHSCF action is needed for the site.



Soil treatment area before cleanup by the responsible party

#### ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNICAL AID, INC. Jefferson County Reference # 348-9518



Soil treatment area after cleanup by the responsible party



Environmental contractors collecting groundwater samples

#### STAGECOACH ROAD DRUM Baldwin County Reference # 348-9542

The Stagecoach Road Drum site is at 31153 Stagecoach Road in Spanish Fort, Baldwin County, Alabama. In March 2009, Assessment Section personnel were notified by the ADEM Mobile Field Office about several abandoned drums at a business located on Stagecoach Road in Spanish Fort. Assessment Section personnel conducted an investigation at the site and discovered that all but one of the drums had been removed from the site. During interviews with local residents, it was learned that the drums were empty and had been taken by people in the neighborhood. The remaining drum was over-packed and appeared to contain green paint. The owner of the site was contacted and stated he was not responsible for placing the drum on-site. In November 2009, ADEM personnel returned to the site to sample the drum, but it had been removed. The property owner had moved the drum to a secure warehouse nearby and contracted with Safety Kleen to sample and dispose of the drum in question. At this time, the Assessment Section is awaiting transport manifests associated with the sampling and removal of the drum. The Assessment Section currently plans no further actions for this site.



Over-packed drum containing waste paint

#### HIGHWAY 25 ROW COLUMBIANA Shelby County Reference # 348-9459

The Highway 25 ROW (right-of-way) site is at 20321 Highway 25 Bypass in Columbiana, Shelby County, Alabama. The site is in the right-of-way adjacent to Recycling Unlimited, Inc. on Highway 25, one mile west of the Highway 70-Highway 25 intersection in Columbiana. In 2006, Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) personnel attempted to excavate a blocked drainage pipe in the right-of-way and reportedly discovered buried drums and other containers. No photos were taken of those drums or containers. Workers on-site were directed to cover the materials with dirt from the right-of-way. ALDOT personnel doing this work were subjected to medical monitoring, and blood tests indicated that several workers had high chromium levels. It was assumed that the workers were exposed to chromium at the site.

Due to the site's location, ALDOT requested assistance from ADEM to assess the site under the Superfund program. A Preliminary Assessment was performed, which included a geophysical survey of the property by EPA to identify areas where drums and other debris were buried. The survey confirmed that metallic objects were buried in a 400 square foot area. Following the EPA survey, soil samples were collected from the right-of-way and from adjacent properties. Analyses indicated that chromium and lead were present in the soil at concentrations exceeding ADEM soil screening levels. ADEM staff decided that the site would be investigated further and managed under the AHSCF program for removal of the contaminated soil and buried materials.

ADEM prepared a scope of services and a Request for Proposals and advertised the project for bids to perform the work. After ADEM reviewed bids from several environmental contractors, Bhate Environmental was selected to perform the work. Action Environmental was subcontracted by Bhate to perform the excavation, transportation, disposal, and closure of the site. In September 2010, the cleanup began and Assessment Section personnel were on-site to coordinate and oversee the activities. The cleanup was completed within 10 days; 28 roll-offs of soil (about 556 tons) were removed from the portion of the site suspected as contaminated and staged at the Shelby County Highway 70 Landfill until analyses of soil samples taken from individual roll-offs were completed. Soils were screened for chromium and lead contamination and 24 of the 28 roll-offs contained soil with hazardous concentrations of lead. The 24 roll-offs containing hazardous waste were transported to the Chemical Waste Management Hazardous Waste Landfill in Emelle, Alabama for RCRA disposal. The remaining four roll-offs contained only trace amounts of lead and were disposed at the Highway 70 Landfill. Another 200 cubic yards of soil were removed from the surface of the remaining portion of the right-of-way. The excavated soil was sampled and found to be non-hazardous and was sent to the Highway 70 landfill to be used as alternate daily cover in the landfill. The primary area of excavation was backfilled with clean soil, properly compacted, and the site covered with hay and grass seed to prevent erosion.

Because all invoices for the costs of these activities will not be received in 2010, the site will be included in the 2011 AHSCF Annual Report as well. No further remedial actions are planned for this site under the AHSCF program.

#### HIGHWAY 25 ROW COLUMBIANA Shelby County Reference # 348-9459



Excavation of the right-of-way along Highway 25



Roll-offs containing hazardous soil staged at the local landfill

#### HIGHWAY 25 ROW COLUMBIANA Shelby County Reference # 348-9459



Non-hazardous surface soil removed from right-of-way



Backfilled excavation area with crew spreading grass seed

#### AMERICAN BRASS, INC. Henry County Reference # 9000\*

The American Brass, Inc. site (ABI) is 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.

EPA began invoicing ADEM in 2009 for \$100,000 per year to pay the required State match, and will continue this through 2013. In 2014, EPA will invoice ADEM for the remaining portion of the cost, not to exceed \$132,879. ADEM will pay the State share of the remediation cost through the Alabama Hazardous Substance Cleanup Fund.



Foundry brick staged for removal



Brass foundry waste staged for 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 \$229,379.79 from October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010.

Site Name	Action Taken	Cost
AHSCF General Management	Administrative, clerical support, initial investigations, equipment	\$28,004.75
Hulsey Site	Initial and follow-up site visits, removal oversight	\$3,095.91
Gulf Hauling Site	Initial site visit and reconnaissance	\$1,459.03
Cottonwood HWY 55 Drums	Initial site visit, sample collection, removal oversight	\$6,915.81
Bunn Brothers Materials, Inc. Landfill	Initial and follow-up site visits, correspondence	\$3,890.69
Herd Street Drum	Initial site visit and removal	\$6,667.17
Deep South Plating & Service Co.	Initial and follow-up site visits	\$4,423.69
Cahaba Valley Trace Meth Lab	Initial site visit and sample collection	\$4,640.02
Reichhold Chemicals	Initial site visit and reconnaissance	\$1,534.64
Simmons Road Drum	Initial site visit and removal	\$519.61
Coosa County Road 12 Drums	Initial site visit, sample collection, and removal	\$5,927.90
Clarence Brown Road Drums	Initial site visit and removal oversight	\$1,543.80
Cullman County O&M Shop	Initial and follow-up visits, excavation oversight	\$1,015.43
Deer Creek Drums	Initial site visit and reconnaissance	\$557.85
McCullough Petroleum Spill	Initial site visit and reconnaissance	\$366.46
Recycling Unlimited Combo	Initial site visit and reconnaissance	\$867.33
Fussy Hill Road Drums	Correspondence with EPA	\$125.51
Warrior Asphalt Company	Correspondence with EPA	\$38.68
Larry Manning Site	Follow-up site visit and internal coordination	\$373.65
Tram Avenue Drum Site	Internal coordination and reconnaissance	\$994.57
Environmental Technical Aid, Inc.	Follow-up site visit	\$390.15
Stagecoach Road Drum	Initial and follow-up site visits, correspondence	\$776.39
Highway 25 ROW Columbiana	Follow-up site visits, correspondence, cleanup oversight	\$35,805.75
American Brass, Inc.	State matching funds for EPA cleanup	\$100,000.00
Laboratory Costs (Total)	Sample analyses for all sites	\$19,445
Total Cost		\$229,379.79

# Site Location Map

