

Alabama Hazardous Substance Cleanup Fund

2021 Annual Report



Land Division
Environmental Services Branch

Table of Contents

Overview of the Alabama Hazardous Substance Cleanup Program.....	2
2021 Response Activities	3
Site Specific Information	4
Expenditures and Cost Recovery	9
Site Location Map	10

Overview of the Alabama Hazardous Substance Cleanup Fund

The Alabama Hazardous Substance Cleanup Fund (AHSCF) was established in 1989 by act of the Alabama Legislature (Code of Alabama 1975, Chapter 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.

The AHSCF Annual report covers the actions of personnel utilizing money from the fund during the past fiscal year (ie. FY 21 – 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2021) to address, investigate/cleanup sites identified during the year. 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, 388 sites have been addressed, with 338 sites remediated to a point where no further action is required.

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

Initial response actions are usually performed under the general management category. In addition to initial responses, other activities 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 assigned a specific site number, initial complaint investigations prior to having specific site numbers assigned to a site, administrative support for the purchase and repair of equipment utilized on all sites, and field sampling equipment and safety supplies. General administrative functions associated with research and clerical support are also included in this category. Two sites were addressed under the general administrative fund during Fiscal Year (FY) 2021.

Funding for AHSCF activities is generated by fees from hazardous waste disposal at the Chemical Waste Management hazardous waste landfill in Emelle, Alabama, and reimbursements from potentially responsible parties (PRPs). For FY2021, fee revenue was \$156,370.84.

2021 Response Activities

AHSCF General Management

Initial investigation of complaints prior to assigning site numbers, administrative support, field sampling, and acquisition of sampling and safety supplies are some of the activities performed under the general management category. Several sites were initially investigated utilizing the Alabama Hazardous Substance Cleanup Fund (AHSCF). A complaint was also investigated regarding a site in Brent, Alabama. The Brent Industries, a manufacturer of work gloves and industrial laundry, burned several years ago, and a concerned citizen complained that there might be hazardous materials on the site. The investigation verified that the EPA oversaw the initial cleanup of the site after the fire and no hazardous materials were left on the site. Brent Industries contracted the cleanup of the materials left on-site, but the contractor improperly disposed of liquid materials (rainwater/fuel/possible solvent mixture from the former secondary containment area of the former processing plant). The contractor was fired and the company is presently working with ADEM regulators to complete the cleanup properly. The Brent Industries site was addressed this fiscal year under the AHSCF. A second site addressed under the AHSCF was the Gadsden Drum Warehouse Fire. Approximately 1,000 drums of materials were being stored at a warehouse in northwest Gadsden, AL. The materials were filters, dust, and debris from cleaning up painting processes at a North Carolina furniture manufacturing company. The owner of the cleaning company moved his business to Alabama and transferred the drums of waste materials to a warehouse in Gadsden. The drums were stored in a warehouse complex when one of the outbuildings caught fire. Upon investigation, sufficient documentation was supplied by the owner to show the waste materials were non-hazardous. The owner is presently working with ADEM Solid Waste personnel to remove the drums of materials in a timely manner. Total expenditures for the past fiscal year were \$39,595.75.

Site Specific Information

AHSCF GENERAL MANAGEMENT Statewide Reference # 348-9000

Several sites were initially investigated under the auspices of the general management fund code. This fund code allows investigators to perform initial surveys of the sites to determine whether assigning a site specific fund code is applicable or if the site would be better managed under another program due to the prevailing circumstances. One such site investigated this past fiscal year was Brent Industries, a former glove manufacturer and industrial laundry located in the town of Brent, Alabama. The remediation contractor who was hired by Brent Industries to clean up the site removed solid waste from the site and placed it on his property without Brent Industries' permission or knowledge. Subsequently, Solid Waste personnel conducted an inspection of the contractor's property, where they oversaw the proper removal and disposal of the waste taken from Brent Industries. In addition, nearly 1,000 drums of material cleanup up from a North Carolina furniture manufacturer's painting line were stored in a warehouse in Gadsden, Alabama. The drums were discovered after a fire in an outbuilding at the warehouse complex attracted fire inspectors, who then contacted ADEM for assistance. ADEM staff investigated the location, reviewed documentation, took photos, met with the owner, and relayed information to him to facilitate the disposal of the drums. The material in the barrels have been determined to be non-hazardous, and the owner is working with Pre-Approval and Solid Waste personnel to properly disposal of the materials.



Gadsden Drum Warehouse Fire addressed under general management



Brent Industries site investigated under general management in conjunction with Solid Waste

**Coliseum Boulevard Plume
Montgomery County
Reference #348-9273**

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

Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) continues to conduct monitoring for TCE in surface water emanating from the west and main branches of the Kilby ditch. ALDOT also continues to perform groundwater monitoring to ascertain current levels of the contamination and monitor natural attenuation progression. The Community Outreach Group continues to meet on a regular basis. Finally, ADEM continues to provide oversight and reviewing of groundwater and surface water sampling performed by contractors for ALDOT at the CBP site.

During the past fiscal year, the oversight provided by ADEM consisted of receiving notifications of TCE exceedances and notification of monitoring well repairs, modification of the settlement agreement for voluntary response, performing a site visit in June, reviewing the 2021 Annual Report, reviewing of the technical memo draft of the Kilby ditch drainage extension by the ADEM site manager, performing quarterly notification emails/phone calls, and originating and receiving various correspondence with the PRPs and other interested parties and concerned citizens about the site. Work on the site is still ongoing, and it will be observed and reported on in the future.

Larry Manning Site

Cullman County

Reference #348-9505

The Larry Manning Site is located off 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 Notice of Violation (NOV) to the property owner for creating and maintaining an unauthorized dump (UAD) comprised of construction/ demolition wastes (scrap metal and treated wood) on May 19, 2009. 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.

In July 2010, an inspector with the Solid Waste Branch conducted a follow-up inspection of the site and confirmed the continued existence of the UAD. As a result of the inspection, a second NOV issued 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.

GEO Specialty Chemicals, Inc. Landfill
Talladega County
Reference #348-9659

The GEO Specialty Chemicals, Inc. (GEO) landfill, which has a 15-acre disposal area and is located just east of Alabama Highway 235 in Talladega County, has a Solid Waste Disposal Permit No. 61-15 immediately. The landfill is used to for the disposal of silica solids produced during alum manufacturing. The site has experienced underlying groundwater contamination resulting from a sinkhole that formed in the southwest corner of Cell 3 of the landfill. The contaminants of concern are aluminum and sulfate. Groundwater elevations at the site range from 431 to 473 feet above mean sea level, as measured during the most recent monitoring event. GEO continues to perform groundwater monitoring to determine current aluminum and sulfate levels. Additionally, ADEM continues to provide oversight and review of groundwater water sampling performed by contractors at the GEO site.

Singleton Property
Montgomery County
Reference #348-9660

The Singleton Property is located at 4946 Old Carter Hill Road in Pike Road, Montgomery County, Alabama. This site was referred to the Assessment Section and the AHSCF due to complaints made by the owner and owner's daughter, Carolyn and Janet Singleton, respectively. The complaint stated that some sort of possible contamination was crippling her horses and had maybe killed one of them in the last two years. The property owner reported possible illegal dumping of contaminants, which had harmed portions of vegetation in her yard and land, as well as the horses, causing hoof injury and perhaps crippling the animals.

ADEM personnel from the Assessment Section and Field Operations sampling personnel responded to the site, documented any areas of possibly distressed or dead vegetation and collected soil samples to try and identify any potential contaminants. Some sampling was hampered due to the owner burning trash and other materials in the areas where the vegetation may have been impacted. Analytical results from the areas that were sampled indicated no contaminants that would have an impact on her livestock or the individuals living on the site. At this time no further action is warranted at this site.



ADEM Personnel Soil Sampling – Singleton Property Site

EXPENDITURES AND COST RECOVERY

AHSCF funds are used to investigate and remediate abandoned hazardous substance sites. Eight total sites were investigated during the past fiscal year. 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 \$73,767.80 from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021.

Site Name	Action Taken	Cost
AHSCF General Management	Administrative, clerical support, initial investigations, equipment	\$39,595.75
9273 – Coliseum Boulevard Plume	Oversight of annual monitoring and report reviews	\$26,828.38
9505 – Larry Manning Site	Record review of consultant	\$135.75
9659 - GEO Specialty Chemicals	Complaint Investigation	\$213.88
9660 - Singleton Property	Initial investigation and soil sampling for possible contamination constituents	\$6,994.04
Total Cost	-----	\$73,767.80

AHSCF Site Map 2021

