

Alabama Hazardous Substance Cleanup Fund

2022 Annual Report



Land Division
Environmental Services Branch

Table of Contents

Overview of the Alabama Hazardous Substance Cleanup Program.....	2
2022 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 an 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 (i.e. FY 22 – 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022) to address, investigate/cleanup sites identified during the year. Generally, sites dealt with 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 NPL sites which have been managed under CERCLA. An in-depth, deep dive into the program shows that since the inception of AHSCF in 1989, 511 sites have been worked on, with 467 sites remediated to a point where no further action is required. Over the last 33 years, the AHSCF has addressed numerous sites over multiple years. Some sites have required AHSCF action over multiple years. In total to date, approximately \$5.3 million of AHSCF funds have been expended to address those sites. This does not include sites inspected under the General Management site code which did not qualify for the AHSCF or sites that were referred to other suitable programs.

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 actions taken are adequately recorded 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. Three sites were addressed under the general administrative fund during FY 22.

Funding for AHSCF activities is provided by a \$1.00 per ton fee on hazardous waste disposed at the Chemical Waste Management hazardous waste landfill in Emelle, Alabama,

and reimbursements from potentially responsible parties (PRPs). For FY 22, fee revenue were \$162,584.13.

2022 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 investigated regarding a site in Oxford, Alabama. The complainant notified the Department about possible drums located on and in the bank of a creek near his residence in Oxford, Alabama. After 6 months of continuous attempts to coordinate a meeting and attempts to illicit more information about the location, condition, and number of reported drums, the investigation was closed due to an uncooperative complainant who refused to provide any further information, meet with ADEM representatives, or disclose the location of the reported drums. Two other complaints were investigated but did not fall under the requirements of the AHSCF and were referred to other programs or handled by the property owner. Total expenditures for the past fiscal year were \$55,925.86.

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 in Samson, Alabama. A property owner living out of state found several drums on her property on a visit to Alabama. Investigators responded and found empty plastic 55-gallon drums possibly once used in an auto shop. No hazardous substances were noted, and the owner was referred to the Solid Waste program for guidance on properly disposing of the drums. Two other complaints were investigated but did not fall under the requirements of the AHSCF and were referred to other programs or handled by the property owner.

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.

The 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

review 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 and reviewing notifications of TCE exceedances and notification of monitoring well repairs and the corresponding reports, reviewing the 2021 Annual Report, reviewing the PZ-26 annual report, 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. ADEM had internal discussions and discussions with ALDOT on many topics including PZ-26, foam used by firefighters training in the Vista View area and the review process for covenants. Work on the site is still ongoing, and it will be observed and reported on in the future.

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

The GEO Specialty Chemicals, Inc. (GEO) landfill (Solid Waste Disposal Permit No. 61-15), which has a 15-acre disposal area and is located just east of Alabama Highway 235 in Talladega County. The landfill is used 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 reviewing of groundwater water sampling performed by contractors at the GEO site. The site was given an AHSCF number to track the expenditures by ADEM personnel in providing oversight and as a mechanism to perform groundwater sampling and analysis if the PRP fails to continue their monitoring requirements.

**Alabama Archives and History Chemical Lab
Montgomery County
Reference #348-9661**

The Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH) contacted ADEM to assist in disposing of materials that were found in doctor's desks and doctor's bags from the 1800s



Containers of 19th Century Medicine from ADAH

donated to the ADAH over the years, and display items being phased out. These items included medicines and chemicals utilized by doctors in the 19th century. Items included poisons, heavy metals, opioids, and other hazardous materials. ADEM provided oversight and consultation to assist ADAH personnel obtaining a cleanup contractor, provided oversight in the actual over packing and removal of the materials, and assisted in the manifesting of the materials for disposal. All materials were removed and appropriately disposed of at an approved disposal facility. At this time, no further actions is necessary at this site.





Medicine and Over Packs from the ADAH Site in Montgomery, AL



ADAH chemical remediation of old doctor's office medicines, chemicals, and display items

Corbitt Construction Drums Talladega County Reference #348-9662

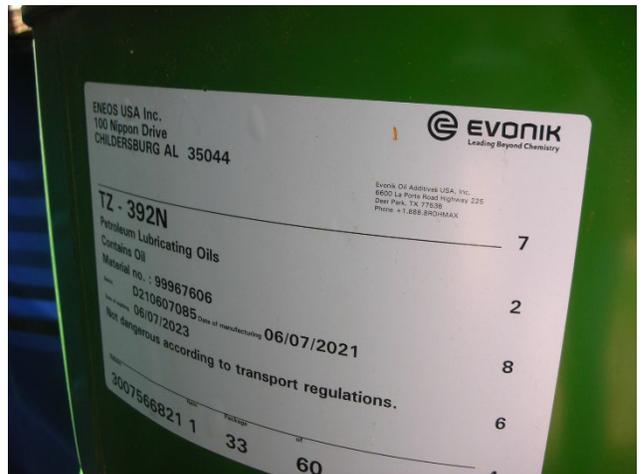
ADEM received two anonymous complaints regarding a site located at 2260 Old Birmingham Highway, Sylacauga, Talladega County, Alabama. The complainants described the site as a storage area where the owner was storing a large number of drums with unknown materials of a possible hazardous nature. ADEM investigators proceeded to the site and found hundreds of 55-gallon barrels stacked two and three high over a large portion of the property both inside and out of a large structure located on the property. In addition to the drums, a large number of 270 gallon plastic, wire framed totes were also located on-site.

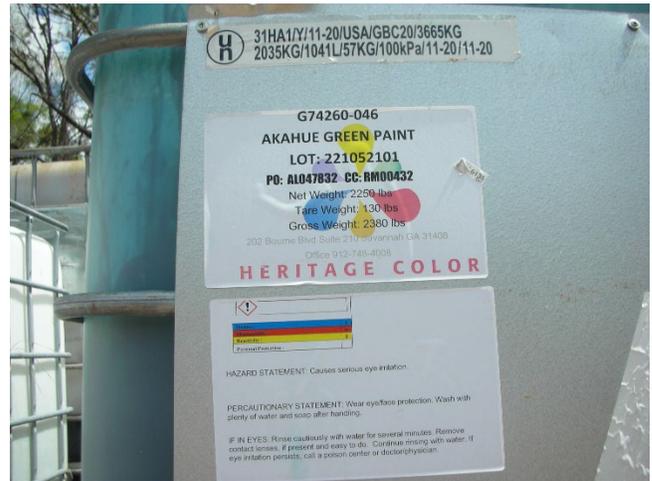
After checking numerous stacks of drums, investigators found no drums with any residual contents. Some of the totes on-site had a green liquid no more than half full at the maximum observed by inspectors – most of the totes were empty.



Empty Drums and Totes on Corbitt Construction Drum Site, Sylacauga, AL

While on-site, employees of the owner arrived and after explaining about the complaint, inspectors were put in contact with the owner by phone. The owner explained that he was receiving empty drums from two local businesses. The owner explained that all drums were empty. It was noted and pointed out to the owner that there were numerous drums with hazardous placarding for various reasons. The owner stated that the only drums that were supposed to be sent to him were emptied mineral spirits drums and emptied oil product drums. He stated that he would be sending any hazardous marked drums back to their original owners. The owner has plans to establish a business for cleaning and reselling of used and refurbished drums. Until then, he was planning to crush the drums and send them to a metal recycler. The totes contained non-hazardous dyes and fertilizer mixes from a local nursery. At this time, no further action is deemed necessary at this site under the AHSCF.





Drums and Totes located on Corbitt Construction Drum Site, Sylacauga, Talladega County

**Tuskegee National Forest Drums
Macon County
Reference #348-9663**

The Tuskegee National Forest Drum Site is located on National Forest Road 914 near Tuskegee, Macon County, Alabama. Forest rangers notified ADEM of two blue, plastic, 55-gallon drums they had discovered being dumped along the national forest property line on National Forest Road 914. ADEM personnel responded to the site and obtained samples from the drum for analysis. One drum had been shot and some materials had leaked out. ADEM investigators patched the bullet hole sealing the leak. After analysis, the material in the drums was determined to be hand sanitizer (glycerin and alcohol with some fragrance component). The material is non-hazardous and no further actions by the AHSCF was deemed necessary. The drums were left in the care of the Forestry Service Rangers.





Talladega National Forest Drums, near Tuskegee, Macon County, Alabama

**Providence Community Drum
Madison County
Reference #348-9664**

The Providence Community Drum was reported to ADEM by a resident of the Providence subdivision being built in northwest Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama. The drum was located on the property adjacent to 3 Brigham Street, NW in the new subdivision. ADEM personnel responded to the site, observed markings on the drum, observed the company manufacturing the materials, and obtained a sample of the materials. Inspectors did an internet search of the company and the product identification number and found that the materials were a concrete releasing compound used to ensure forms used in concrete work did not adhere to the wet, uncured cement. After contacting the company to inquire if they would accept the material back (declined due to the unknown usage, purity, etc...), inspectors contacted the project manager for the development company building and expanding the subdivision. The project manager contacted his concrete subcontractor and had them take possession of the materials to be utilized for their intended purpose. No further actions are necessary at this site under the AHSCF.

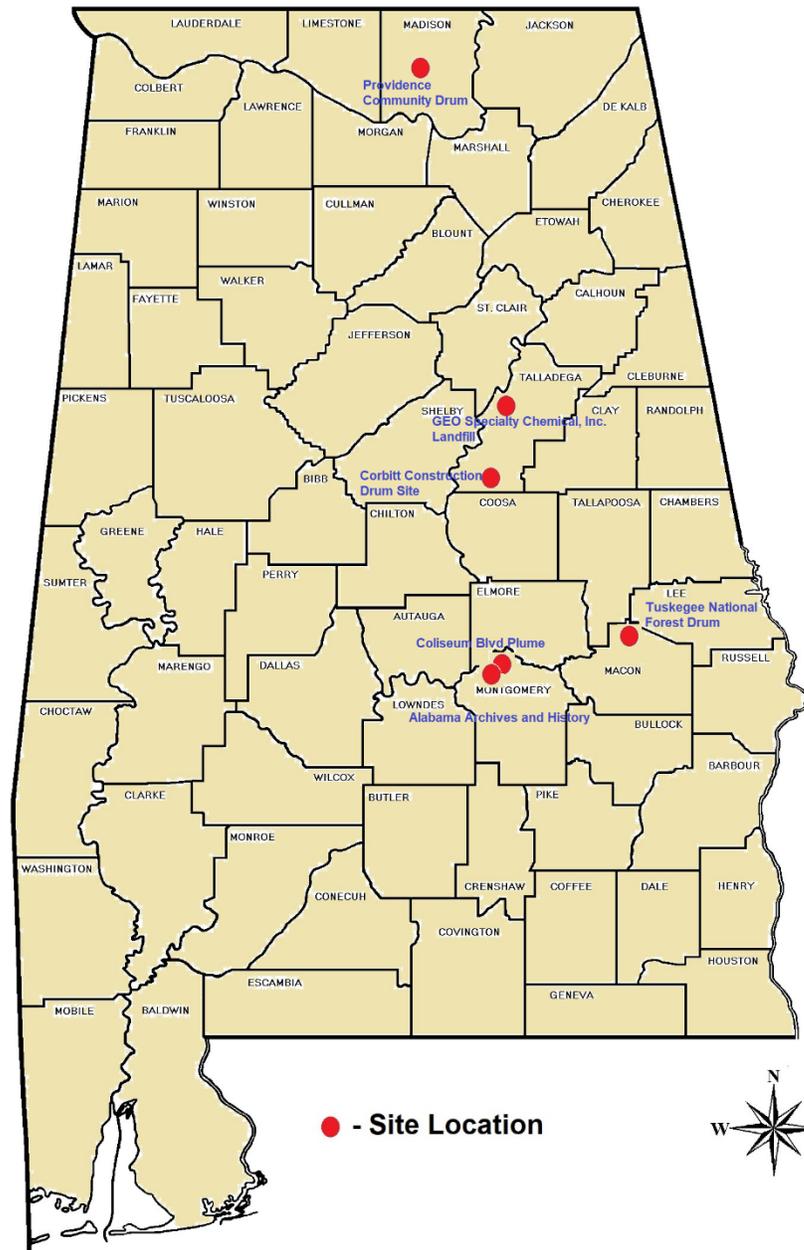


EXPENDITURES AND COST RECOVERY

AHSCF funds are used to investigate and remediate abandoned hazardous substance sites. Nine 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 \$55,925.89 from October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022.

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	\$9,494.76
9659 - GEO Specialty Chemicals	Complaint Investigation	\$1,143.33
9661 - AL Dept. of Archives and History	Coordinate cleanup, provide oversight for disposal of materials	\$1,642.20
9662 – Corbitt Construction Drums	Complaint investigation	\$1,881.85
9663 – Tuskegee National Forest Drums	Complaint investigation	\$767.78
9664 – Providence Community Drum	Complaint Investigation and sampling of an abandoned drum	\$1,314.46
Total Cost	-----	\$55,925.86

AHSCF Site Map 2022



● - Site Location

