



For Immediate Release:
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ADEM Update on Eight Mile Area Mercaptan Release

MONTGOMERY - The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) continues its efforts to address the odor issues associated with the mercaptan release in the Eight Mile area. The Department has been responding to complaints in the area for several months and has required Mobile Gas Service Corporation to conduct a soil/groundwater investigation.

The Department has determined that mercaptan is present in the soil and the groundwater at the location where mercaptan is placed into the distribution pipeline by Mobile Gas. The Department has also confirmed that impacted groundwater has migrated off-site from this same location.

Although defining the outer boundaries of the soil contamination and impacted groundwater plume is a long-term effort, ADEM has instructed Mobile Gas to immediately initiate steps to address the odors that are the source of citizen complaints. As a result, an application has been submitted to ADEM for the issuance of an Underground Injection Control permit that will support the oxidation and breakdown of the mercaptan that is in the groundwater. This process is not designed to mask the mercaptan odor but to actually breakdown the mercaptan in the groundwater.

ADEM staff will continue meeting with the local elected officials, citizens, and other interested parties to address all aspects of this investigation including the air quality data, the soil/groundwater data, and the processes that will be covered by the Underground Injection Control permit. Release of the results of air sampling recently conducted in the area is expected within the next two weeks.

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