

# *Alabama Hazardous Substance Cleanup Fund*

## **2008 Annual Report**



**Land Division  
Environmental Services Branch  
November 2008**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>2008 Response Activities .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Overview of the Alabama Hazardous Substance..... Cleanup Program</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Site Specific Information .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Expenditures and Cost Recovery .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Site Location Map .....</b>	<b>10</b>

## **2008 Response Activities**

### **AHSCF General Management**

Initial investigation of complaints, administrative support, and field sampling and safety supplies

### **Buck Creek Mills Brownfield Site**

Final AHSCF activity to ensure settlement agreement parameters were met and completed

### **Bayou La Batre Drums**

Final removal report was received and no further actions will be taken at this time

### **Highway 25 Site**

Initial site visit and GPS delineation of surface water pathways; geophysical survey scheduled with landowners

### **White's Chapel Drum Site**

Follow-up visit to assess the condition of the drums, and investigation into their disappearance

### **Butler County Drum Burn Site**

Investigation of potentially buried drums on private property in Butler County; 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 pose a potential danger to 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 (CERCLA) of 1980, 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 325 sites have been addressed, with approximately 295 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, ADEM staff will determine if remediation is necessary and, if so, the best method to conduct the remediation. Several regulatory programs may be utilized, including the federal Superfund program, the ADEM Hazardous Waste program or AHSCF. Site-specific conditions will dictate the remediation program used to address site contamination. Regardless of the regulatory program ultimately utilized at a site, if the initial response was performed under AHSCF, site activities are subsequently summarized in this report to ensure closure of each location.

ADEM charges its AHSCF administrative and site response costs to the AHSCF fund managed by the ADEM Fiscal Office. Financial tracking is accomplished by assigning a Site Number to those sites which have been determined to need some further remedial action. Initial response actions are usually performed under the general management category. Initial complaint investigation and initial response activities are usually conducted before a site number is assigned. Once a site number is assigned, all costs associated with that site are tracked individually and are reported separately. Other costs, such as administrative support for research, clerical support, purchase and repair of equipment, field sampling equipment and safety supplies, will be reported as general administrative expenses.

Funding for AHSCF activities is primarily derived from a \$1 per ton fee placed on all hazardous waste disposed of at the hazardous waste landfill located in Emelle, Alabama. Other funds may be generated by legislative appropriations or from cost recovery at sites with responsible parties. For fiscal year 2008, revenue into the AHSCF fund maintained by ADEM was \$139,469.61.

## Site Specific Information

### **BUCK CREEK MILL Shelby County Site Number 9262**

The Buck Creek Mill (BCM) site is located at 1097 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW, Alabaster, Shelby County. BCM began operating as a textile manufacturing facility in 1896, and through various owners and operators, continued in textile operations until 1979. The facility was used for automotive repairs until 2004 when the City of Alabaster acquired the property.

This is a Brownfields redevelopment site. ADEM personnel conducted on-site and off-site sampling of subsurface soil and surface water in early 2007. Personnel attempted to sample groundwater on-site but encountered bedrock between 5-10 feet at all boring locations and no groundwater was available to obtain for sampling.

Expenditures on the site in 2008 included surface water sampling and analysis and preparation of the final Brownfields report to EPA. Based on results of the surface water and soil sampling, it does not appear that these media have been impacted from historical operations at BCM. At this time, no further actions are planned for this site.



**Entrance to Buck Creek Mills site**

**BAYOU LA BATRE DRUMS**  
**Mobile County**  
**Site Number 9442**

This site located off of Powell Avenue in Bayou la Batre was discovered during debris cleanup following Hurricane Katrina. At the site three dip tanks, a drip pad and over 200 drums (empty, partially filled, and full) were discovered. The drums contained materials used to dip and coat commercial fishing nets. After site investigation by ADEM, the property owner was contacted about removal of the drums and liquids in the tanks and vats. A contractor was hired by the property owner, all drums and tanks were characterized, and the vat/drum contents and contaminated soil around the site were disposed of in an appropriate manner. ADEM personnel provided oversight to the contractors during the removal operations at the site. The Assessment Section received the final removal report in 2008 and determined that no further actions are necessary at this time.



**Drums, Nets, and Dipping Vats at Bayou La Batre  
before remediation**



**Bayou La Batre Drum Site  
after remediation.**



**HIGHWAY 25 SITE**  
**Shelby County**  
**Site Number 9459**

In 2006 the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) uncovered an assortment of buried materials in the right-of-way along Highway 25 south of Columbiana while attempting to repair a culvert to alleviate a drainage problem. Sampling performed by ALDOT contractors revealed hazardous levels of various metals. Two landowners, Mr. Benny Davis and Mr. Rob McLeroy, own properties adjoining the right-of-way. At the time it could not be determined where the waste originated and which properties might be contaminated with the hazardous substances found by ALDOT. Because of this, the three properties were assigned separate site numbers; right-of-way, 9459; Davis property, 9460; and, McLeroy, 9461. Because of their close proximity the three sites are being reported together under site number 9459 as the "Highway 25 Site".

ADEM staff conducted a site reconnaissance and used GPS equipment to delineate the surface water drainage pathways between the Davis and McLeroy properties. A geophysical survey of the area has been coordinated with EPA. ADEM has contacted both landowners and ALDOT to schedule the survey on their properties. Work continued on these sites into Fiscal Year 2009.



**Materials uncovered in right-of-way by ALDOT**

**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 from after the last visit by the local EMA to the 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 drum.



**BUTLER COUNTY DRUM BURN SITE**  
**Butler County**  
**Site Number 9000**

ADEM personnel were notified on March 24, 2008, of a possible dump site on property owned by James Schofield of Honoraville, Alabama. The potential dump site is located on Greenleaf Road in Butler County, not far from Mr. Schofield's residence at 244 Greenleaf Road. Mr. Schofield inherited the property from his father and it was rumored that his father had at one time buried 55-gallon drums of industrial wastes on the property. In late March 2008, a grass fire burned the area and revealed some drums in the woods. The Butler County EMA notified ADEM and assessment personnel responded to the site to investigate. The investigation revealed several crushed and empty 55-gallon drums in the burn area. There were no signs or indications of any recent or historic burial of materials on the property in question. At this time, no further action is recommended for this site.



**244 Greenleaf Road, Butler County, Alabama**  
**Red circle shows the area where drums were found**

## 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 \$31,990.11 from October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008.

Site Name	Action Taken	Cost
AHSCF General Management	Administrative, clerical support, initial Investigations, equipment	\$25,814.09
Buck Creek Mills	Review of analytical results from surface water and soil samples	\$2,446.79
Bayou La Batre Drums	Correspondence and finalization of removal report	\$181.98
Highway 25 Site	Initial site visit and reconnaissance for three sites	\$1412.68
White's Chapel Drums	Follow-up visit and investigation	\$1,045.57
Laboratory Costs - Total	All Sites	\$1089.00
Total Cost		\$31,990.11

# Site Location Map

