

Alabama Hazardous Substance Cleanup Fund

2012 Annual Report



Land Division
Environmental Services Branch
Assessment Section

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2012 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.

Cooper Industries & Aerovox

Oversight of resumed groundwater monitoring activities, and continued coordination with the responsible party to monitor conditions at the site.

Highway 25 ROW Columbiana

Coordination with contractors regarding final invoices and other paperwork. No further actions are anticipated under the AHSCF program.

Warrior Asphalt Company

Coordination with responsible party to address maintenance issues around containment structures. ADEM will continue to monitor the site under the AHSCF program.

Bunn Brothers Materials, Inc. Landfill

Assistance to Compliance and Enforcement Section with site inspection. No further actions are anticipated under the AHSCF program.

Fore Dixie Development Co.

Coordination with responsible party to remove trailers and materials from the site for proper disposal.

JK Holdings Site

Review of sample analyses and internal coordination regarding site cleanup. The site was referred to ADEM's Solid Waste Branch for further action.

Meadowlark Drum Site

Assistance with disposal information for a drum of isocyanate discovered at a foreclosed home in Alabaster, Alabama.

County Road 32 Drum Site

Complaint investigation regarding abandoned drums and fuel tanks on rural property. Empty drums and tanks and an unauthorized trash dump were found. Site was referred to ADEM's Solid Waste Branch for further action.

Corn Creek Drum Site

Complaint investigation regarding abandoned drums along Highway 231 in Wetumpka, Alabama. Drums contained sand waste generated during an ALDOT project. ALDOT subsequently removed the drums.

County Road 373 Drum Site

Complaint investigation regarding drums found in a small creek in rural Chilton County. Empty drums were found; these had likely been used for fuel storage.

B & G Auto Transport

Complaint investigation regarding buried drums of anti-freeze and oil at a towing company. No evidence of burial or illegal dumping was observed. No further actions are anticipated under the AHSCF program.

Crawford Road Drum Site

Complaint investigation of buried drums of used oil at an auto repair shop. No evidence of burial or illegal dumping was observed. No further actions are anticipated under the AHSCF program.

Elba Tar Dump

Complaint investigation of abandoned fuel depot, tar pits, and scrap tire dump. Asphalt tanks and tar were discovered, and the responsible party has sampled and removed the tanks and material.

Watts Road Disposal Site

Complaint investigation regarding dumping of petroleum-contaminated water. The company implicated in the complaint provided ADEM with invoices and disposal records. No further actions are anticipated under the AHSCF program.

Verbena Abandoned Drums

Documentation of EPA cleanup at abandoned gold ore extraction facility. Continued coordination with property owner to remove remaining containers.

Independence Drum Dump

Complaint investigation regarding dumping of drums behind residential property. No further actions are anticipated under the AHSCF program.

The Fountains

Investigation of overflowing underground fuel oil tank at defunct facility in Fort Payne. Tank riser was capped by the city, and no other problems exist on-site.

Custom Auto Repair

Investigation of two unlabeled drums at former auto repair shop. The owner was alerted and is currently having the drums sampled and removed.

Billy Strong Scrap Site

Documentation of EPA response to drum dump found during a fire. Responsible party sampled and removed drums, and property owner cleaned up solid waste.

In2Connect

Investigation of abandoned facility containing hazardous waste in drums and open containers. Continued coordination with lender and its consultant to sample and remove wastes from facility.

12th Street Drums

Investigation of drums staged on loading dock of old building in Anniston. Owner was contacted; drums were tested and removed from the site.

About 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, §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, 378 sites have been addressed, with 327 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 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 is also included in this category.

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 2012, legislative appropriations and fee revenue were \$68,777.34.

Site Specific Information

COOPER INDUSTRIES & AEROVOX

Madison County

Reference # 348-9269

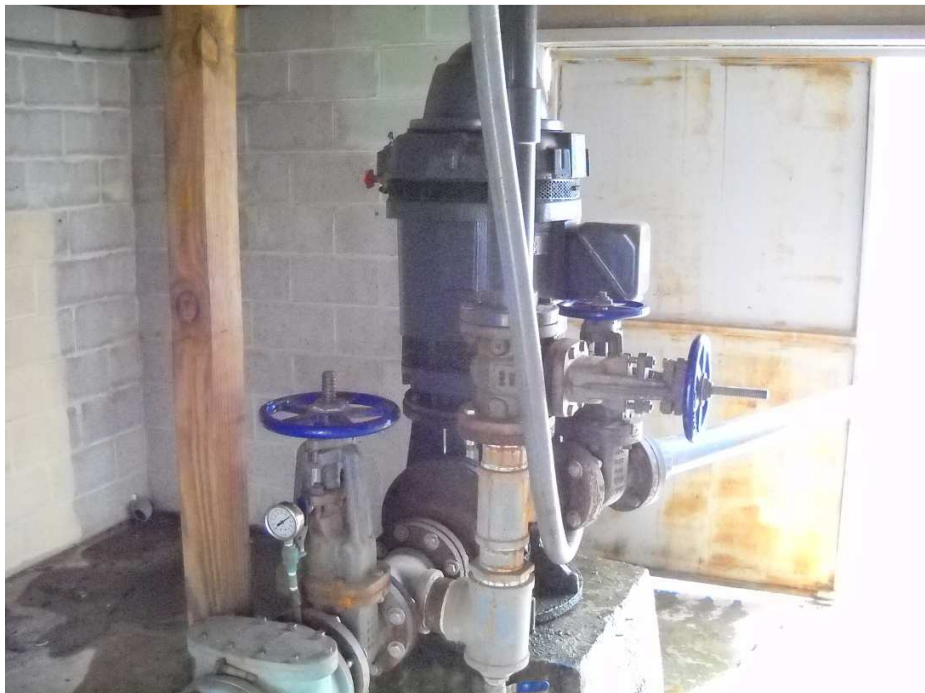
The Cooper Industries and Aerovox Site, 2615 Memorial Parkway Southwest, Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama, was built in 1954 and manufactured chemically-etched aluminum foil for the fabrication of electrolytic capacitors. At one time, the company used trichloroethylene (TCE) for cleaning and degreasing in the manufacturing process. During a review for the sale of the property, TCE contamination was discovered in the groundwater underlying the site. Aerovox notified ADEM of the contamination in 1993, and entered into a settlement agreement with ADEM to take steps to determine the extent of contamination and locate possible sources. Under the settlement agreement, Aerovox would operate its production well that provided non-contact cooling water for the etching process as a pump and treat system to remediate contaminated groundwater, while submitting quarterly groundwater monitoring data to ADEM to track the progress of groundwater remediation activities.

In 2005, Aerovox asserted that it had met the conditions required in the settlement agreement, and proceeded to cease groundwater monitoring. A subsequent ADEM review of the November 2005 groundwater monitoring data indicated that TCE concentrations in groundwater underlying the site were still above Federal Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for drinking water. Despite a lack of groundwater data for the years following the 2005 cessation of monitoring activities, the production well continued to operate on a full-time basis, potentially restricting off-site migration of the TCE plume. During Fiscal Year 2012, groundwater monitoring activities were resumed at the site, with oversight of the Assessment Section. As of March 2012, monitoring data show groundwater TCE concentrations above MCLs for drinking water. The Assessment Section continues to work with the responsible party to monitor conditions at the site.

COOPER INDUSTRIES & AEROVOX
Madison County
Reference # 348-9269



Aluminum foil rolls in etching machine



On-site production well used in pump and treat system

HIGHWAY 25 ROW COLUMBIANA
Shelby County
Reference # 348-9459

The Highway 25 Right-of-Way (ROW) Site, 20321 State Highway 25 in Columbiana, Shelby County, Alabama, is 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 ROW and reportedly discovered buried drums and other containers. Workers on-site were directed to cover the materials with dirt from the ROW. 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.

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 the Environmental Protection Agency (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 ROW and from adjacent properties. Analyses indicated that chromium and lead were present in the soil at concentrations exceeding ADEM soil screening levels. ADEM decided that the site would be managed under the AHSCF program for further investigation and the removal of contaminated soil and buried materials.

ADEM reviewed bids from several environmental contractors, and Bhat Environmental was selected to manage the removal project. In September 2010, the remediation began and Assessment Section personnel were on-site to coordinate and oversee the activities. During the cleanup, 28 roll-offs of soil (about 556 tons) were removed from the portion of the site suspected as contaminated. The roll-offs were sampled for chromium and lead contamination; those results revealed that 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 disposal. The remaining four roll-offs containing trace amounts of lead were transported to the Shelby County Highway 70 Landfill. Another 200 cubic yards of non-hazardous soil were removed from the surface of the right-of-way and sent to the Highway 70 landfill to be used as alternate daily cover material. The primary area of excavation was backfilled with clean soil, properly compacted, and covered with hay and grass seed to prevent erosion.

During Fiscal Year 2011, the Assessment Section worked with the contractor on cost invoices, processing paperwork, and receiving/reviewing the final removal report. In Fiscal Year 2012, the Assessment Section coordinated with the contractor on final invoices and paperwork. At this time, there are no further actions planned 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 for transport to Emelle

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

WARRIOR ASPHALT COMPANY
Tuscaloosa County
Reference # 348-9504

The Warrior Asphalt Company Site (also known as Warrior Rosins), Warrior Road, Holt, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, was an asphalt manufacturing company that operated from the early 1950s until 1985 when the site was abandoned. In 1985, the Assessment Section performed a Preliminary Assessment under CERCLA. A follow-up Screening Site Investigation was performed in 1989; at the time, the site was not considered a high enough threat to human health and the environment to warrant further action.

In September 2008, the Assessment Section conducted a follow-up investigation of the site under AHSCF to determine if it posed an immediate threat to public health and the environment. 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 or tall oil. 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 areas where vegetation was dead or dying. Due to the scale of the contamination, the volume of wastes, the accessibility of the property, and its proximity to the Warrior River, the site was referred to the EPA Emergency Response and Removal Branch 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, removing tar from the smaller pits for consolidation in the lagoons. The abandoned drums were sampled and removed to an appropriate disposal facility. The lagoons contained tall oils which were hazardous due to their benzene levels. 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. In December 2011, EPA completed construction of the containment wall. Fencing and erosion controls were placed around the site. In May 2012, Assessment Section personnel conducted the annual inspection of the containment structures and noted several minor maintenance issues. The responsible party addressed these problems, and in September 2012, ADEM acknowledged completion of the work. ADEM will continue to monitor the site under the AHSCF program to ensure that the slurry wall, fencing, and other measures retain their structural integrity.

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



Main lagoon containing tall oils and asphalt-related waste



Lagoon runoff collection pit

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



EPA constructing a slurry containment wall around the lagoons



Completed slurry containment wall and enclosure

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 a nearby site in September 2008, ADEM personnel were approached by an employee of a nearby company who stated that during heavy rain events, black, odoriferous, oily water would run down the hill onto his employer's property and enter its stormwater drainage system. The complainant indicated that a lagoon containing a black substance was located on the Bunn Brothers property up-gradient from the plant, and may have been the source of the oily runoff.

In February 2010, ADEM personnel conducted a site investigation at the Bunn Brothers property. Throughout the site were piles of household trash and other debris, indicating that illegal dumping had occurred. ADEM personnel discovered several large mounds of soil covered with black plastic, as well as 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 thought to be soil contaminated with oil and petroleum products; the incinerator was used to burn the soil to remove contamination. 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 referred to ADEM's Compliance and Enforcement Section for further action. During Fiscal Year 2012, the Assessment Section assisted Compliance and Enforcement personnel with an inspection of the site. Currently, the property owners are coordinating with ADEM to characterize the soils on-site for possible removal.

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



Piles of potentially oil-contaminated soil, covered with plastic



Abandoned drums, prior to removal by unknown party

FORE DIXIE DEVELOPMENT CO.
Escambia County
Reference # 348-9588

The Fore Dixie Development Co. Site is on Pecan Leaf Lane in Flomaton, Escambia County, Alabama. In November 2010, the Assessment Section received a call regarding several trailers on Fore Dixie property. According to a representative of the property owner, there were 45 trailers containing baghouse dust from an unknown facility. The trailers had been moved to the property by a former lessee about 10 to 15 years prior. The property owner was unsure if the baghouse dust was hazardous and requested assistance from ADEM before proceeding with disposal of the material.

In November 2010, Assessment Section personnel traveled to the site to meet with a representative of the property owner and to evaluate the trailers and their contents. The trailers were found to contain large fiberglass bags filled with a white, powdery material. ADEM collected samples from one of the bags and took photographs of the trailers and their contents; information from paperwork boxes on the trailers was also obtained during the investigation. Sample analysis revealed that the material contained borate; further research indicated that the material was a non-hazardous, borate-based insecticide and fungicide. In February 2011, Assessment Section personnel returned to the site to meet with the individual responsible for the trailers. The responsible party agreed to refurbish the trailers and remove them from the property. At this time, ADEM is coordinating with the property owner and the responsible party to ensure that the trailers are removed from the site and the material is disposed of properly.



Sacks of borate material found inside tractor trailers

JK HOLDINGS SITE
Jefferson County
Reference # 348-9623

The JK Holdings Site is at the east end of 41st Avenue North in Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama. In August 2011, a complaint was filed with the National Response Center (NRC) about a large pile of unknown material in an open area of a residential neighborhood. According to the complaint, the community had the material tested by an environmental firm and analyses revealed elevated levels of lead. The NRC forwarded the complaint to ADEM's Assessment Section for investigation.

In August 2011, Assessment Section and Industrial Hazardous Waste personnel inspected the site and collected samples of the material for analysis. At the site, investigators discovered a large pile of material measuring about 30 feet high, 350 feet long, and 200 feet wide. The pile appeared to be plastic and rubber fluff material from an automobile shredder, as well as a white, friable material that had been deposited in a distinctly separate area of the pile. ADEM personnel collected samples of the two different types of materials. Laboratory results later revealed the presence of lead below regulatory limits. In November 2011, personnel from ADEM's Industrial Hazardous Waste Branch met with representatives from JK Holdings to conduct further sampling. The results of this sampling event indicated that the material in the pile is non-hazardous. The site was referred to ADEM's Solid Waste Branch for further action. At this time, there are no further actions planned under the AHSCF program.



Fluff pile discovered in clearing near 41st Avenue

MEADOWLARK DRUM SITE
Shelby County
Reference # 348-9627

The Meadowlark Drum Site is at 422 Meadowlark Place in Alabaster, Shelby County, Alabama. In September 2011, the Assessment Section received a complaint regarding a 55-gallon drum of isocyanate discovered at this site, which is a foreclosed residential property. The complainant represented a company that was contracted to prepare the property for re-sale; this individual was seeking information about how to properly dispose of the drum. Assessment Section personnel contacted the complainant and advised him on drum removal and disposal. Because of the location and amount of waste present, the drum can be classified as “household hazardous waste” and may be disposed of at a municipal solid waste landfill. Assessment Section personnel requested that the complainant provide ADEM with a receipt from the location of disposal. At this time, ADEM is awaiting final documentation from the complainant. Because this site was assessed at the end of Fiscal Year 2011, the final determination is also being reported in the Fiscal Year 2012 Annual Report.



Drum of isocyanate discovered on foreclosed property

COUNTY ROAD 32 DRUM SITE
Baldwin County
Reference # 348-9628

The County Road 32 Drum Site is at 11135 County Road 32 in Fairhope, Baldwin County, Alabama. In September 2011, ADEM received a complaint regarding abandoned drums, fuel tanks, and other containers at this site. According to the complaint, about 30 drums were staged in an area behind an old mobile home and shed, and one of the drums had leaked its contents onto the ground.

In September 2011, Assessment Section personnel traveled to the site in response to the complaint. During the inspection, ADEM personnel observed numerous empty 55-gallon drums in a thickly-vegetated area of the property. It was unknown if the drums had leaked out or if they had been brought to the site empty. ADEM investigators discovered that the property was littered with a large quantity of other items such as tires, scrap metal, junk cars, household trash, construction/demolition debris, small fuel tanks, cylindrical tanks, and metal totes. Due to the presence of numerous tires throughout the property, there was a large and aggressive population of mosquitoes in the area, which represented a potential public health risk. Because the drums and metal totes on the property appeared to be empty, there are currently no further actions planned for this site under the AHSCF program. In September 2011, the site was referred to ADEM's Solid Waste Branch for further action. Because this site was assessed at the end of Fiscal Year 2011, the final determination is also being reported in the Fiscal Year 2012 Annual Report.



Empty drums found on-site

CORN CREEK DRUM SITE
Elmore County
Reference # 348-9629

The Corn Creek Drum Site is on the east side of US Highway 231, near Corn Creek, in Wetumpka, Elmore County, Alabama. In September 2011, the Assessment Section received a complaint regarding five (5), 55-gallon drums that appeared to have been abandoned in the area east of Highway 231 and north of Corn Creek. The complainant reported that the drums likely contained sand generated during a bridge repainting project conducted by ALDOT. According to the complainant, the drums had been at the location for about 30 days.

In September 2011, Assessment Section personnel traveled to the location of the drums. There were six (6), 55-gallon drums and nine (9), 5-gallon buckets staged in a chain-link fence enclosure. The drums had "hazardous waste" labels attached to them, but there was no information on the labels concerning the type of hazardous materials, time of generation, or information about the generator. Because the drums appeared to be associated with an ALDOT project, the site was referred to the ADEM Compliance and Enforcement Section for further action. The drums were subsequently removed by ALDOT. There is no further action planned for this site under the AHSCF program. Because this site was assessed at the end of Fiscal Year 2011, the final determination is also being reported in the Fiscal Year 2012 Annual Report.



Drums stored along Highway 231 near Corn Creek

COUNTY ROAD 373 DRUM SITE
Chilton County
Reference # 348-9630

The County Road 373 Drum Site is on County Road 373 in Chilton County, Alabama. In September 2011, the Assessment Section received a complaint about drums in a creek in rural Chilton County. The complainant had discovered the drums along a small tributary of Indian Creek near their property.

In September 2011, Assessment Section personnel traveled to the area to search for the drums. Investigators entered a wooded area west of County Road 373 and walked the length of the creek. Several empty 55-gallon drums were discovered in various locations along the creek; all were intact and did not appear to have leaked their contents. In a clearing along the creek, investigators found a large group of empty drums near a field pumping station. It appeared that the drums had originally contained fuel for operating farm equipment and that some of the drums had rolled or washed down into the creek bottom. There was no evidence that hazardous substances had leaked into the creek. At this time, there are no further actions planned for this site under the AHSCF program. Because this site was assessed at the end of Fiscal Year 2011, the final determination is also being reported in the Fiscal Year 2012 Annual Report.



Empty fuel drums and pumping station found near creek

B & G AUTO TRANSPORT
Jefferson County
Reference # 348-9631

The B&G Auto Transport Site is at 1516 Third Street West in Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama. In late September 2011, the Assessment Section received a complaint about buried drums containing anti-freeze and oil reportedly generated by a car-crushing business in the area. The complaint was originally received by EPA Region 4, which forwarded it to the Assessment Section for further investigation.

In early October 2011, Assessment Section personnel traveled to the site to investigate the complaint. Nearby residents were interviewed about the activities taking place on the B&G Auto property and the Reynolds Metals property to the south. There were no apparent witnesses to the alleged drum burials and there were no significant complaints about the business operations on the properties. Investigators met with the owner/operator of B&G Auto, which is an active towing and repossession company. Assessment Section personnel learned that Reynolds Metals is no longer in operation and the owner of B&G Auto is in the process of purchasing the property. The owner of B&G Auto stated that he had previously contracted a mobile crusher to come to the property and crush cars for scrap metal recovery, but this practice was discontinued about four years prior. Assessment Section personnel conducted a walkthrough of both properties and did not observe any containers of hazardous materials or any signs of illegal disposal or burial. ADEM personnel also did not observe any evidence that car-crushing activities had recently occurred on-site. At this time, there are no further actions planned under the AHSCF program.



View of site from neighboring property

CRAWFORD ROAD DRUM SITE
Russell County
Reference # 348-9633

The Crawford Road Drum Site is at 3605 Crawford Road in Phenix City, Russell County, Alabama. In June 2011, EPA referred an anonymous complaint to ADEM regarding buried drums of used oil. The complainant reported that a local auto repair shop at the address had buried drums of used oil behind the shop. Initial research indicated that there were no businesses or residences located at the address provided.

In September 2011, Assessment Section personnel traveled to Phenix City to investigate the complaint. Due to a lack of information provided in the complaint, investigators decided to visit all the auto repair shops in the vicinity of Crawford Road. Several repair shops were visited, and contact was made with the owners before conducting a walkthrough of each property. During the inspections, there were no indications of buried drums or other materials, and all of the shops that were generating used oil had retained oil recycling companies to remove their used oil. Because there was a lack of detailed information in the complaint, investigators were unable to find the location of the alleged buried drums. The businesses inspected during the response appeared to be operating within State and Federal guidelines. At this time, there are no further actions planned for this site under AHSCF. Because this site was assessed at the end of Fiscal Year 2011, the final determination is also being reported in the Fiscal Year 2012 Annual Report.



One of several auto repair shops visited during the investigation

ELBA TAR DUMP
Coffee County
Reference # 348-9635

The Elba Tar Dump Site is on County Road 404 in Elba, Coffee County, Alabama. In May 2011, ADEM received an anonymous complaint regarding an abandoned fuel depot along State Highway 189 in Elba, Alabama. It was also reported that tar pits and numerous scrap tires were deposited in the woods nearby. The complaint was eventually forwarded to the Assessment Section and the Industrial Hazardous Waste Compliance and Enforcement Section for further investigation.

In early January 2012, personnel from the Assessment Section and the Compliance and Enforcement Section traveled to the site. During the visit, investigators found an empty fuel depot that was no longer in use. Nearby, two large metal tanks were discovered on the ground; the tanks had been cut with a torch, and a small collection pit had been constructed to contain tar leaking from the tanks. ADEM personnel also inspected the adjacent property where there were alleged to be additional dump sites. On the adjacent property, another dismantled asphalt tank with tar on the ground was discovered. During the inspection, ADEM personnel were approached by employees of Spurlock Iron and Metal, which had purchased the tanks and other scrap metal on the property. In February 2012, the Compliance and Enforcement Section sent a warning letter to the company, requesting that the tar-like material be tested for hazardous characteristics. Spurlock Iron and Metal complied with the request, and the results of the waste determination showed that the material was not a hazardous waste. In March 2012, the company contracted Safety Kleen to remove the material for recycling as a fuel blend. The Compliance and Enforcement Section found that the corrective actions taken by Spurlock satisfied applicable ADEM regulations. At this time, there are no further actions planned under the AHSCF program.

**ELBA TAR DUMP
Coffee County
Reference # 348-9635**



Tanks and tar collection pit found near abandoned fuel depot



Dismantled tank found on adjacent property

WATTS ROAD DISPOSAL SITE
Walker County
Reference # 348-9636

The Watts Road Disposal Site is on Jake Watts Road in Quinton, Walker County, Alabama. In January 2012, ADEM received an anonymous complaint about illegal dumping of petroleum-contaminated water at the end of Jake Watts Road in Walker County, Alabama. According to the complainant, the alleged offender was contracted with a local petroleum company and several service stations, performing maintenance tasks that sometimes involved pumping out sumps around storage tanks.

In January 2012, Assessment Section and Industrial Hazardous Waste Compliance and Enforcement Section personnel traveled to the site to meet with the complainant and conduct an inspection of the dumping area. During the inspection, ADEM personnel did not observe any evidence that illegal dumping had occurred. There were no detectable odors, soil staining, or distressed vegetation in the area. Following the on-site inspection, ADEM personnel traveled to Jasper, Alabama to speak with representatives of the petroleum company implicated in the complaint. The company provided the ADEM inspectors with copies of invoices where maintenance was performed on the station pumps and documentation that water had been pumped from the sumps and appropriately disposed of at a fuel blender. At this time, there are no further actions planned under the AHSCF program.



Area where petroleum-contaminated water was reportedly dumped

VERBENA ABANDONED DRUMS
Chilton County
Reference # 348-9638

The Verbena Abandoned Drums Site is on County Road 24 in Verbena, Chilton County, Alabama. In December 2011, personnel from ADEM and the Federal Bureau of Investigation were notified about unsecured tanks and drums that appeared to have been abandoned at a facility in rural Chilton County. During the initial response, a large inventory of chemicals were found on the property, including hydrogen peroxide, hydrobromic acid, and sulfuric acid. Some of the containers appeared to have failed, representing a risk of release to the environment and the surrounding community. Based on the initial information, EPA quickly mobilized an Emergency Response at the site. Further evaluation during site stabilization activities showed that an above-ground storage tank (AST) on-site held about 3,000 gallons of a high pH aqueous solution containing chlorine and cyanide. Two conex boxes, reaction vessels, and another larger AST were reported to contain cyanide caustic sands. Sampling of a small pond adjacent to the site showed a slightly low pH of 5-6 and trace amounts of metals; cyanide was not detected in sediment or surface water samples. EPA found additional acids and other hazardous chemicals on-site, including hydantoin bromide, which is used to leach gold and other metals from ore. Subsequent research on the defunct business that previously operated on-site revealed that the company was involved in gold mining and extraction.

In December 2011, Assessment Section personnel traveled to the site to meet with EPA representatives and observe the progress of response activities. Throughout the year, Assessment Section personnel visited the site to ensure that containers staged for removal were stable and that there were no immediate hazards to the public. From June to August 2012, EPA contractors removed the drums and other containers of hazardous substances from the property. Analyses of the sands in the conex boxes, reaction vessels, and large AST showed low levels of heavy metals and no detectable cyanide; the containers were left on-site for later removal. In October 2012, Assessment Section personnel visited the site to document changes that had occurred since the EPA removal. ADEM personnel confirmed that EPA had removed the drums and containers of hazardous substances, leaving the less hazardous conex boxes, reaction vessels, and large AST on-site. During the October inspection, a small pile of yellow, granular material was observed on the ground in the area where the containers of leachant chemicals were removed. At this time, the Assessment Section is coordinating with the property owner to remove the remaining containers and possibly conduct additional soil testing around the building.

VERBENA ABANDONED DRUMS
Chilton County
Reference # 348-9638



Conex boxes and large AST containing potentially-hazardous sands



Drums and other containers, secured and staged for removal by EPA

INDEPENDENCE DRUM DUMP
Autauga County
Reference # 348-9639

The Independence Drum Dump Site is at 1987 County Road 40 West in Independence, Autauga County, Alabama. In late January 2012, ADEM received an anonymous complaint about the illegal dumping of drums behind a residential property in Independence, Alabama. According to the complainant, individuals were dumping drums of an unidentified material several times per day near a barn behind the residence.

In early February 2012, Assessment Section personnel traveled to the site and met with the lessee of the property. ADEM personnel located the barn, which contained numerous small containers of chemical products used in the construction business. Most of the containers were stored inside the barn or under an awning; however, some containers were stored on pallets outside of the barn. The container labels indicated that the materials were grout liquids, surface retarders, polyurethane sealants, damp-proofing compounds, solvents, and strippers. None of the containers appeared to be leaking at the time of inspection. According to the lessee, the previous tenants had either purchased the products or traded for them. The owner of the products, who works in the construction business, has reportedly been removing them from the property over the last two years. Assessment Section personnel advised the lessee to move the containers stored outside on pallets to the barn to prevent contact with rain. At this time, there are no further actions planned under the AHSCF program.



Barn with containers of construction materials

**THE FOUNTAINS
DeKalb County
Reference # 348-9640**

The Fountains Site is at 1301 Forest Avenue Northwest in Fort Payne, DeKalb County, Alabama. In May 2011, EPA received a complaint about an inactive facility where a pipe protruding from the ground was leaking a dark material that was killing the surrounding grass and running into a nearby storm drain. Initially, personnel from ADEMs Hydrogeology Section responded to the complaint. ADEM personnel learned that the facility was the former DeKalb County Hospital, which was later used as an assisted living center called The Fountains. It was discovered that five underground storage tanks (USTs) existed on-site, three of which were pumped empty and temporarily closed; the tanks were used for fuel-oil and diesel storage to power the hospital's boilers and backup generators. Due to heavy rain events, water had infiltrated the open pipe of one of the remaining USTs, causing the residual contents to overflow. At the recommendation of the Hydrogeology Section, the City of Fort Payne capped the leaking pipe to prevent further overflows.

In December 2011, the site was forwarded to the Assessment Section for additional investigation. In early February 2012, Assessment Section personnel traveled to the site to document current conditions and meet with representatives of the City of Fort Payne. During the time since the initial ADEM response, it appeared that there had been no additional overflows from the UST. During an inspection of the property, ADEM personnel did not observe any other leaking pipes and there did not appear to be any abandoned hazardous wastes on-site. Under the current ADEM administrative code, fuel-oil tanks are exempt from UST regulations. At this time, there are no further actions planned under the AHSCF program.



Capped UST pipe and area of dead vegetation from overflow

**CUSTOM AUTO REPAIR
Sumter County
Reference # 348-9641**

The Custom Auto Repair Site is at 531 Klondike Road in Livingston, Sumter County, Alabama. In January 2012, ADEM personnel were performing a scrap tire inspection at the Custom Auto Repair property when they discovered two (2) unlabeled 55-gallon drums that contained unknown materials. In February 2012, the site was referred to the Assessment Section for further investigation.

In late February 2012, Assessment Section personnel traveled to the site to inspect the drums and document conditions at the site. After speaking with nearby residents, it was learned that the site was being used to store farm equipment. The main structure on-site appeared to have been used for automobile repair by the previous owner before the company went out of business. In the area around the main building, Assessment Section personnel found the two (2), 55-gallon drums noted in the referral, as well as five (5), 55-gallon drums with unknown contents and several 5-gallon buckets of multi-gear lubricant. Further inspection showed that the five drums were empty. A large pile of household garbage and other refuse was also found on-site. During the investigation, ADEM personnel noted two small metal pipes protruding from the ground near the main service structure; it was thought that these might be associated with a UST. The current owner stated that the drums were present when he had purchased the property five years prior; he did not know the function of the underground pipes. The owner is in the process of having the contents of the two drums tested for removal. The site was referred to ADEM's UST Compliance Unit and UST Corrective Action Section for further investigation. At this time, there are no further actions planned under the AHSCF program.



55-gallon drums of unknown material, found near main building

BILLY STRONG SCRAP SITE
Coosa County
Reference # 348-9642

The Billy Strong Scrap Site is at 5556 County Road 85 in Goodwater, Coosa County, Alabama. On March 20, 2012, Kellyton and Goodwater Fire Departments were responding to a brushfire in rural Coosa County when they discovered a dump site of numerous plastic and metal drums. The fire caused many of the drums to explode, which prompted responders to withdraw from the site and notify the state Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and the National Response Center. State EMA personnel learned that the owner of the property, Billy Strong, had picked up the reportedly-empty drums from the SL Corporation Alabama facility in nearby Alexander City. Due to residual amounts of methyl ethyl ketone, hexane, and isopropyl alcohol, the drums became pressurized when exposed to the fire, causing them to rupture and explode. Emergency Response personnel from ADEM and EPA responded to the site and conducted air monitoring and thermal imaging before preparing for a more thorough evaluation of the site the following day.

On March 21, 2012, Assessment Section personnel traveled to the site and met with EPA responders, who were collecting a detailed inventory of the containers found. During a walkthrough of the site, Assessment Section personnel observed multiple 55-gallon drums, some of which were empty and others which were bulging and had ruptured during the fire. Of particular concern were the drums that were bulging and had not yet ruptured, as these were unstable and at risk of exploding. In addition to the drums, there were several propane tanks of various capacities, junk vehicles, home appliances, car batteries, gas cylinders, and various scrap metal. After EPA had completed their evaluation of the site, it was discovered that several drums contained material above a residual level; however, testing showed that the majority contained only water. Due to over-pressurization, the remaining drums were too unstable to sample at the time. SL Alabama assumed responsibility for the remaining drums and secured an environmental contractor to sample and remove the unstable drums. The drums were removed and opened, revealing that they were empty and contained no significant amounts of residual chemicals. The property owner has since removed the non-hazardous solid waste from the site, retaining only scrap metal for later resale. At this time, there are no further actions planned under the AHSCF program.

BILLY STRONG SCRAP SITE
Coosa County
Reference # 348-9642



EPA response personnel recording inventory of drums found on-site



Pressurized, bulging drums found on-site

**IN2CONNECT
Cullman County
Reference # 348-9644**

The In2Connect Site is at 2304 Industrial Drive, Cullman, Cullman County, Alabama. The company manufactured copper flexible circuits, membrane switches, and heater systems until going out of business in September 2011. At the time, In2Connect was in violation of storing hazardous waste longer than the permitted 90 days. In August 2011, the owners of the business entered into a Consent Order with ADEM and agreed to remove the waste; however, a follow-up compliance inspection in November 2011 revealed that wastes were still present in the facility. In January 2012, the site was referred to the Assessment Section after it appeared that the owners had left the country and abandoned hazardous wastes inside the facility.

In February 2012, Assessment Section personnel traveled to the site to document conditions in the facility and to meet with a representative from Synovus, the bank which held the loan on the property. During a walkthrough of the facility, ADEM personnel observed numerous containers of corrosive solutions, waste sludges, unknown liquids, and various hazardous wastes from electroplating operations. ADEM personnel found open containers of electroplating sludge in the facility's wastewater treatment area, and equipment associated with the treatment system still contained wastewater and treatment solutions. Small containers of assorted chemical products were also found, many of which appeared to have hazardous characteristics.

Following the February 2012 visit, Synovus contracted Bhate Environmental to coordinate with ADEM and address the issues at the site. Because the bank had not foreclosed on the property, there was no viable responsible party for wastes left on-site. In April 2012, staff from the ADEM Assessment Section and the Industrial Hazardous Waste Compliance and Enforcement Section met with representatives from Synovus and Bhate to outline a plan for cleaning up the site and returning the property to a commercially useful state. During the April meeting, the bank agreed to pay for removal and clean up of the wastes on-site, with the Assessment Section providing oversight and support as needed. In July 2012, the Circuit Court of Cullman County appointed Red Rock Realty as the Receiver for the property. Because a portion of the wastes on-site were already manifested for removal by the previous owners, ADEM authorized the removal of these wastes prior to the development of a cleanup and closure plan for other areas of the facility. Since then, the loan on the property has been sold to First City Servicing Corporation. At this time, potential buyers are exploring cleanup costs through various contractors. Bhate Environmental continues to work with the Assessment Section and the Compliance and Enforcement Section to develop and implement a final closure plan for the facility.

**IN2CONNECT
Cullman County
Reference # 348-9644**



Drums of hazardous wastes abandoned on-site



Small containers of hazardous chemical products and wastes

**IN2CONNECT
Cullman County
Reference # 348-9644**



Wastewater treatment area, with containers of hazardous wastes



Unsecured 5-gallon buckets of wastewater treatment sludge

12TH STREET DRUMS
Calhoun County
Reference # 348-9646

The 12th Street Drums Site is at 208 West 12th Street in Anniston, Calhoun County, Alabama. In August 2012, personnel from ADEMs Governmental Hazardous Waste Compliance Unit observed several drums staged at an unused structure near downtown Anniston. Governmental Compliance Unit personnel were not able to determine the integrity of the drums or if they contained any hazardous materials; the site was immediately referred to the Assessment Section for further investigation.

In August 2012, Assessment Section personnel traveled to the site to evaluate the drums and document conditions on the property. During the investigation, ADEM personnel observed several drums and other containers staged on the loading dock of an older brick structure at the corner of Moore Avenue and 12th Street. There were eight (8), 55-gallon drums, four of which contained unknown liquids. Two of the drums were missing bung caps, and a faint petroleum odor was detected in their vicinity. ADEM personnel also observed one (1), 35-gallon drum, one (1), 5-gallon bucket, and one acetylene gas cylinder. The 35-gallon drum was empty and had a caustics placard affixed to it. Assessment Section personnel acquired tax information for the property and located the owner. In September 2012, the owner had the contents of the drums tested, showing that they contained honing oil, diesel fuel, mineral spirits, and caustic cleaning solution. In October 2012, the drums were removed from the site and taken to an appropriate disposal facility. At this time, there are no further actions planned under the AHSCF program.



Drums and containers staged on loading dock of old building

AMERICAN BRASS, INC.
Henry County
Reference # 9000*

The American Brass Inc. Site, State Highway 134, Headland, Henry County, Alabama, was a secondary brass smelter/foundry facility that operated from 1978 to 1992. The site was placed on the Superfund National Priorities List on May 10, 1999. There is no viable responsible party to remediate the site, which requires EPA to use federal funds for site cleanup. 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 party for the remediation of the site. EPA will use the Superfund program to pay for 90% of site remediation costs, which is estimated at \$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 for five years to pay the required State match. In 2014, EPA will invoice ADEM for the remaining portion of the cost. ADEM will pay the State's share of remediation costs 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 \$145,261.47 from October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012.

Site Name	Action Taken	Cost
AHSCF General Management	Administrative, clerical support, initial investigations, equipment	\$17,111.79
Cooper Industries & Aerovox	Document review and coordination with responsible party	\$9,741.37
Highway 25 ROW	Coordination with contractor and invoice processing	\$871.97
Warrior Asphalt Company	Annual inspection and coordination with responsible party	\$1,165.76
Bunn Brothers Materials, Inc. Landfill	Internal coordination and inspection assistance	\$719.88
Fore Dixie Development Co.	Coordination with responsible party	\$101.68
JK Holdings Site	Review of sample analyses and referral to Solid Waste Branch	\$88.22
Meadowlark Drum Site	Coordination with property owner	\$223.29
County Road 32 Drum Site	Final determination reporting	\$949.41
Corn Creek Drum Site	Final determination reporting	\$318.98
County Road 373 Drum Site	Final determination reporting	\$557.54
B & G Auto Transport	Site visit and reconnaissance	\$3,903.68
Crawford Road Drum Site	Final determination and reporting	\$610.76
Elba Tar Dump	Site visit and referral to Compliance and Enforcement Section	\$975.04
Watts Road Disposal Site	Site visit and reconnaissance	\$1,011.60
Verbena Abandoned Drums	Site visits, coordination with EPA and property owner	\$1,140.87
Independence Drum Dump	Site visit and reconnaissance	\$457.41
The Fountains	Site visit and reconnaissance, internal coordination	\$450.25
Custom Auto Repair	Site visit and reconnaissance, coordination with property owner	\$2,136.23
Billy Strong Scrap Site	Site visit and coordination with EPA	\$888.02
In2Connect	Site visit and reconnaissance, cleanup oversight	\$1,122.00
12 th Street Drums	Site visit and reconnaissance, coordination with property owner	\$715.72
American Brass, Inc.	State matching funds for EPA cleanup	\$100,000.00
Total Cost	-----	\$145,261.47

Site Location Map

