

# Alabama Hazardous Substance Cleanup Fund

## 2014 Annual Report



Land Division  
Assessment Section  
Environmental Services Branch

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## **2014 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.

### **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.

### **Fore Dixie Development Co.**

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

### **A-1 Plating**

Former plating facility abandoned with materials still in place. AHSCF oversight of cleanup performed by contractors hired by the present owners. Awaiting final analytical results for slab and soil samples.

### **O'Riley Auto Parts**

Former auto parts facility with two abandoned totes located in the rear parking lot with approximately 10 gallons of unknown materials in each tote. Sampling was performed on the totes.

### **American Brass**

State matching money for Superfund cleanup paid to the US. EPA for work done on the American Brass Superfund site in Henry County. Final payment should be performed in the coming year.

## **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, 380 sites have been addressed, with 330 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 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 2014, fee revenue were \$93,058.17.

## **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 FY14, the groundwater off-site to the west was sampled at an available monitoring well at a former gas station to establish whether any TCE contamination was escaping the Site. Additional groundwater monitoring was also accomplished. Analysis of data obtained indicates that the industrial well is keeping the groundwater contamination by TCE contained on-site. A once yearly schedule for monitoring has been established through the oversight of the Assessment Section and the Groundwater Branch. 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**

**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. Monitoring by ADEM during FY 14 continued at 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**

**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. A second



**Sacks of borate material found inside tractor trailers**



satellite site was discovered in Baldwin County at 26230 County Road 112, Robertsdale, AL. Those materials have been removed and disposed of at the Timberland Landfill in Escambia County. The removal/cleanup of the remaining trailers of materials was completed during FY 14 and all hazardous materials have been removed from the site. The remains of several trailers which had to be dismantled during the removal remain to be disposed of by metal recycling. No further action is necessary at this site.



**Baldwin County Satellite Site**

**A-1 PLATING  
Colbert County  
Reference #9647**

The A-1 Plating facility is located at 2009 Missouri Street, Tuscumbia, Colbert County, Alabama. This is an abandoned plating operation that the First Metro Bank in Muscle Shoals, Alabama paid the lapsed property taxes prior to foreclosure proceedings. ADEM investigators met with the bank's representative in January 2013 and performed an inspection of the interior and exterior of the Site to ascertain the presence of hazardous materials, waste streams, and associated problems at the abandoned facility. Numerous drums of spent plating solutions, vats of used plating solutions, wash and rinse water, acids, sludges, spills of various sorts, etc... was observed by the investigators. The AHSCF has overseen the cleanup of the Site by contractors for the owners, and are presently awaiting the final sampling results for the slab and the soil

around the building. Those results will indicate whether further action will be required at the Site under the AHSCF.



**Plating Line Vats at A-1 Plating, Tuscumbia, AL**



**Liquids in Plating Vats, A-1 Plating, Tuscumbia, AL**



**A-1 PLATING  
Colbert County  
Reference #9647**



**Transformer and equipment, A-1 Plating**

**O'Riley Auto Parts  
Montgomery County  
Reference #9653**

On August 26, 2014 ADEM personnel investigated the complaint of two large totes abandoned behind the O'Reilly's Auto Parts store located at 2372 E South Blvd, Montgomery, AL. The purpose of the site visit was for reconnaissance and sampling if possible. Upon arriving personnel observed two 275 gallon capacity plastic totes within metal frames. Along southern end of the parking lot in which the totes are located, there are numerous used tires that are present on site and have been referred to the ADEM Scrap Tire program. Also a homeless woman was observed sleeping in the parking lot in the vicinity of the totes and tires. Pictures of the site and the surrounding area were taken shortly after arriving at the site. Tote #1 contained an estimated 10 gallons of a clear liquid that appeared to be water that had a petroleum odor. Tote #2 also contained an estimated 10 gallons of liquid that appeared to be used motor oil.



Samples were collected from both totes for analysis. Acetone (4,117 µg/L), phenanthrene (388 µg/L), and pyrene (328 µg/L) were all detected in samples collected from Tote #1. The totes were left on site and disposition is pending.



**Totes at O'Riley Auto Part Site**



**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 2015, 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 \$157,575.66 from October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014.

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Action Taken</b>	<b>Cost</b>
AHSCF General Management	Administrative, clerical support, initial investigations, equipment	\$40,049.00
Cooper Industries & Aerovox	Document review and coordination with responsible party	\$10,127.97
Warrior Asphalt Company	Annual inspection and coordination with responsible party	\$158.50
Fore Dixie Development Co.	Oversight of final removal of hazardous materials	\$5,353.44
A-1 Plating	ADEM oversight of cleanup; presently awaiting confirmatory sampling results	\$413.25
O'Riley Auto Parts	Initial investigation and sampling of abandoned totes	\$357.00
Laboratory Costs	Sample Analysis	\$1,116.50
American Brass, Inc.	State matching funds for EPA cleanup	\$100,000.00
Total Cost	-----	\$157,575.66

# Site Location Map



0 30 60 120 Miles

