

Alabama Hazardous Substance Cleanup Fund 2015 Annual Report



Land Division
Environmental Services Branch

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2015 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.

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.

Emerson Property Buried Drums

Resident was digging on his land and uncovered what he thought were buried drums. He reported the site to ADEM and our investigators responded to the site. Soil sampling was performed, magnetometers were utilized to try and pinpoint any buried drums, no drums were identified or located.

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, 385 sites have been addressed, with 332 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. Three sites were addressed under the general administrative fund this past year.

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 2015, fee revenues were \$108,135.06.

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 FY15, the company performed two additional groundwater sampling events in preparation for a property transfer and the shutdown of the facility. Cooper Industries has been bought by a multi-national corporation and has informed ADEM that it will no longer perform additional testing or analysis at the site. This plus the shutdown of the facility and subsequent shutdown of the production well has placed both Cooper and Aerovox in violation of the settlement agreement signed in 2000. As a result, the site will be referred to the groundwater branch for possible action under the Clean Water Act and other appropriate programs. The site owners and the prospective buyer of the property have been encouraged to enter the Voluntary Cleanup Program. The site will be removed from the AHSCF with the referral to the Water Division.

COOPER INDUSTRIES & AEROVOX
Madison County
Reference # 348-9269



Aluminum foil rolls in etching machine



On-site production well formerly used in pump and treat system

**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



Totes at O'Riley Auto Part Site

EMERSON PROPERTY BURIED DRUMS

Montgomery County

Reference Number 9655

The Emerson Property Buried Drum Site is located at 1701 North Oakview Court, Montgomery, Montgomery County, Alabama. The property owner notified ADEM when he encountered what he thought were buried drums while installing post holes for a fence he was constructing. ADEM personnel performed a magnetometer survey of the area and found no anomalies which were indicative of buried drums. What anomalies which were found were indicative of buried utility lines. There were areas of stressed vegetation visible, so ADEM investigators performed soil sampling to ascertain if any spills or buried materials may have caused the damage to the vegetation. Soil samples were analyzed for VOCs and heavy metals. No further action is deemed necessary at this time under the AHSCF.



**ADEM Personnel Performing Soil Sampling and GPS Locating
At Emerson Buried Drum Site, Montgomery, AL**



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. By the end of 2015 or after the first of the calendar year 2016, 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 \$136,119.15 from October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015.

Site Name	Action Taken	Cost
AHSCF General Management	Administrative, clerical support, initial investigations, equipment	\$24,903.46
Cooper Industries & Aerovox	Document review and coordination with responsible party	\$8,493.97
O'Riley Auto Parts	Initial investigation and sampling of abandoned totes	\$472.06
Emerson Property Buried Drums	Initial investigation of site, soil sampling, magnetometer survey performed	\$1,346.16
Laboratory Costs	Sample Analysis	\$903.50
American Brass, Inc.	State matching funds for EPA cleanup	\$100,000.00
Total Cost	-----	\$136,119.15

Site Location Map

