

# Alabama Hazardous Substance Cleanup Fund 2016 Annual Report



**Land Division**  
**Environmental Services Branch**

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## **2016 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. Site responsible parties defaulted on the Settlement Agreement under the AHSCF with ADEM. Cooper performed groundwater monitoring and withdrew from further participation in the program. Aerovox shut down the production well in the process of putting the property up for sale and shut down all operations at the site. The site was withdrawn from the AHSCF and the site was in the process of being referred to the Groundwater Division for corrective action when they entered into the Voluntary Cleanup Program. The site is no longer under AHSCF oversight.

### **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, and no drums were identified or located. Final paper work and review request performed this year

### **American Brass**

State matching funds for Superfund cleanup paid to the US. EPA for work done on the American Brass Superfund site in Henry County. Final payment made this 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 2016, fee revenue were \$123,454.97.

## Site Specific Information

### **COOPER INDUSTRIES & AEROVOX**

#### **Madison County**

#### **Reference # 348-9269**

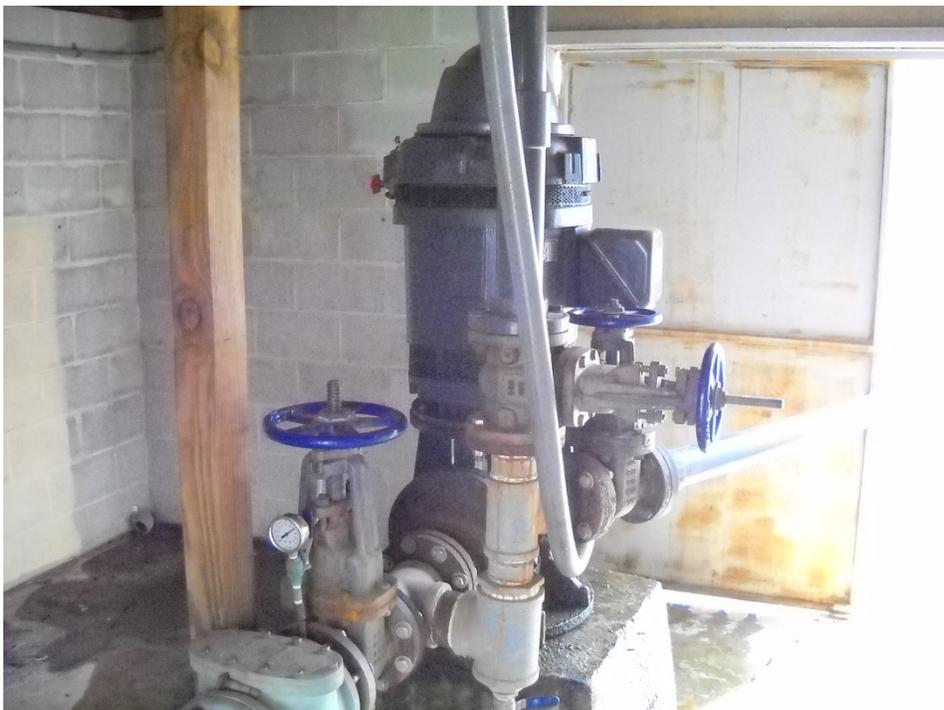
The Cooper Industries and Aerovox Site, 2615 Memorial Parkway Southwest, Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama, was built in 1954 and manufactured chemically-etched aluminum foil for the fabrication of electrolytic capacitors. At one time, the company used trichloroethylene (TCE) for cleaning and degreasing 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. During the 2016 year, the owners and the lawyers for the prospective buyers requested a meeting with ADEM to go over their options under the various programs. The meeting was held with Groundwater representatives, AHSCF personnel, Voluntary Cleanup personnel as well as the owner and their representatives. The result was the withdrawal of the site from the AHSCF and an application from the owner to enter into the Voluntary Cleanup program in lieu of corrective action under the Clean Water Act and Groundwater involvement and oversight. The site is no longer under AHSCF oversight and has been removed from the program.

**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**

**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 was 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. Final review and paperwork for the activities at the site were completed during the 2016 FY.



**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 has completed payment of the State's portion of the remediation costs with the final payment of \$30,940.86 this fiscal year. No further actions should be needed at this time.



**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 \$78,537.72 from October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016.

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Action Taken</b>	<b>Cost</b>
AHSCF General Management	Administrative, clerical support, initial investigations, equipment	\$44,694.38
Cooper Industries & Aerovox	Document review and coordination with responsible party	\$2,758.71
Emerson Property Buried Drums	Initial investigation of site, soil sampling, magnetometer survey performed	\$143.77
Laboratory Costs	Sample Analysis	\$0.00
American Brass, Inc.	State matching funds for EPA cleanup	\$30,940.86
Total Cost	-----	\$78,537.72

# Site Location Map

