



# Environmental Update Hercules LLC Hattiesburg, Mississippi



FACT SHEET NO. 13

DECEMBER 2017

## HERCULES ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP UPDATE

### INTRODUCTION

Environmental cleanup work is continuing at the former Hercules manufacturing plant in Hattiesburg. Extensive investigation conducted both around the plant property and off-site has been completed. Working under the direction of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Hercules completed four important milestones in the cleanup and restoration of the former manufacturing site:

- ◆ Decommissioned the Impoundment Basin (IB)
- ◆ Decommissioned and removed tanks and structures
- ◆ Replaced the Providence Street sewer line
- ◆ Sampled and assessed groundwater

MDEQ and Hercules originally completed investigative activities at the site under the Voluntary Evaluation Program and then executed a Restricted Use Agreed Order (RUAO) in 2008, which outlined land use and groundwater monitoring activities. In May 2011, the EPA issued an order under Section 3013 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), referred to as a 3013 Order. Additionally, a RCRA 3008(h) Consent Order, which became effective on July 8, 2014, required Hercules to conduct Interim Measures with appropriate EPA and MDEQ oversight: (1) coordinate and assist the City of Hattiesburg with replacement of a sewer line along Providence Street (adjacent to the Hercules facility), 2) evaluate the shallow groundwater contamination originating from the Hercules facility in two specific areas (See Figure 5).

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**This fact sheet is part of continuing community engagement efforts to keep the citizens of Hattiesburg informed of progress made toward investigating and improving environmental conditions at the former Hercules manufacturing facility.**

### IMPOUNDMENT BASIN (IB) DECOMMISSIONED

**Overview:** The IB was used as part of the wastewater treatment system at the Hercules site. As required by the 3008 (h) Order, Hercules submitted a Decommissioning Plan to EPA and MDEQ in March 2015. The plan detailed the procedures that would be used to complete the project. EPA and MDEQ approved the plan, and field activities were initiated in April 2015. The IB contained approximately 4,700 cubic yards of sludge, which were stabilized in place in preparation for off-site disposal. Perimeter air monitoring was performed throughout the entire process of decommissioning the IB.

**No reported air quality issues occurred during implementation of the IB project.**

**Current Status:** All sludges and water were removed from the IB by April 2016 and disposed of off-site. Concrete was poured in the bottom of the IB to support management of material from the large wastewater tank (Tank ET-10) that is located on the east side of Providence Street. Material from Tank ET-10 was managed in the IB during 2017. All Tank ET-10 material that was managed in the IB has been removed from the basin and disposed of off-site. All equipment and the temporary structure (large white tent) will be removed by December 2017. The IB will then be backfilled, graded, and seeded in accordance with the EPA and MDEQ plan. These activities should be completed during the first quarter of 2018.

Figure 1. IB Decommissioning Project. Contractor installing temporary structure over the IB.



## TANKS AND OLD STRUCTURES DECOMMISSIONED

**Current Status:** Sludge from two tanks (Tanks ET-10 and ET-18) has been stabilized and transported off-site for disposal. Select materials from the tanks were contained in roll-off boxes and shipped off-site for disposal while other material was directly loaded for transportation and disposal. Currently, a small amount of material from Tank ET-10 remains on-site. All material from this tank is expected to be removed from the site by the end of December 2017. Water from the tanks has been treated with granular-activated carbon and discharged to the City of Hattiesburg sewer under the facility permit.

Hercules has completed the dismantling and salvage of old buildings on the site, with the exception of the two large smoke stacks and various wastewater tanks and piping around the IB. Upon completion of the removal of the equipment and temporary structure associated with the IB and tank decommissioning work, citizens may see equipment such as mechanical shears and grapple brought in and out to complete the dismantling project. Hercules plans to complete removal of the two large smokestacks in 2018.

Figure 3. Tank ET-10 Sludge Removal Project: Equipment staged for activities associated with Tank ET-10.



*Copies of reports associated with Hercules' projects can be found online at:*  
[http://www.deq.state.ms.us/MDEQ.nsf/page/CE\\_HerculesIncHattiesburgMS?OpenDocument](http://www.deq.state.ms.us/MDEQ.nsf/page/CE_HerculesIncHattiesburgMS?OpenDocument)

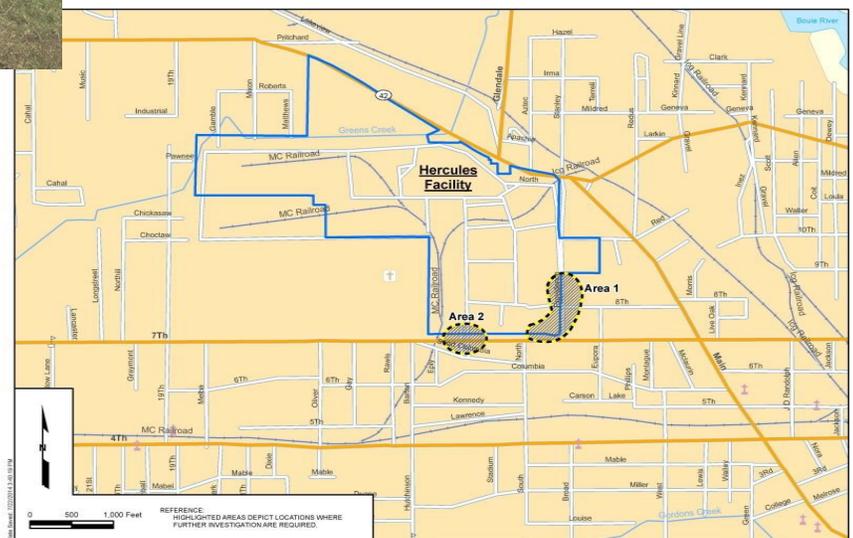
Figure 4. Tank ET-10 Sludge Removal Project: Loading dump truck within the temporary structure over the IB with solidified ET-10 material. The dump truck was used to transport the material off-site for disposal.



## EVALUATION OF SHALLOW GROUNDWATER

**Current Status:** Hercules has collected groundwater data from several areas around the site in accordance with the MDEQ RUAO, the EPA 3013 Order, and the EPA 3008 Order. Areas that are assessed include Area #1, Area #2, and site-wide conditions. Data are routinely submitted to both EPA and MDEQ in summary reports for their review and approval. Groundwater sampling is conducted twice a year at the site. The last groundwater sampling event was completed in November 2017.

Figure 5. Areas where groundwater contamination was evaluated.



## SEWER LINE REPLACEMENT: PROVIDENCE STREET

**Current Status:** In 2014, Hercules replaced the sewer line beneath Providence Street that runs along the east side of the plant with a modern system. The work lasted from August 25, 2014, to November 3, 2014, and affected the use of only about 1,500 feet of the road. Hercules submitted a plan to manage any contaminated soil or groundwater identified during completion of the work. The plan contained procedures for air monitoring during the sewer line replacement. The work was overseen and accepted by the City of Hattiesburg's Public Works Department and the EPA and MDEQ.

Figure 6. Providence Street Sewer Line Replacement Project. Contractor replacing a manhole along Providence Street.



Figure 7. IB Decommissioning Project. Loading solidified IB material into a roll-off box inside the temporary structure. Material was then transported off-site for disposal.



Figure 8. Structure Dismantling Project. Contractor demolishing an on-site warehouse and preparing the material for recycling.



Figure 9. IB Decommissioning Project. Removal of the temporary structure over the IB associated with the decommissioning project.



If you have questions about the Hercules project, please contact:

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You can also find more information about the Hercules project online at the following electronic information repositories webpage links:

Electronic Information Repositories

[www.epa.gov/region4/foiapg/readingroom/hercules\\_inc/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/region4/foiapg/readingroom/hercules_inc/index.htm)

[http://www.deq.state.ms.us/mdeq.nsf/page/CE\\_HerculesIncHattiesburgMS?OpenDocument](http://www.deq.state.ms.us/mdeq.nsf/page/CE_HerculesIncHattiesburgMS?OpenDocument)