

ENGAGEMENT: Collaborative Process

Hercules/Ashland Hattiesburg, MS

BACKGROUND

In May 2011, U.S. EPA issued a RCRA 3013 Order to Hercules, Inc., requiring the company to conduct on- and off-site monitoring, testing, and reporting to determine the nature and extent of any environmental contamination at and from the Hattiesburg facility.

The Hercules Site is located on approximately 200 acres of land north of West 7th St. Hattiesburg, Forrest County, Mississippi.

Hercules began operations in Hattiesburg, MS in 1923 under the name Hercules Powder Co. Hercules produced over 250 chemical products, including resins, polyamides, ketene dimer, crude tall oil wax emulsions, synthetic rubber, and Delnav, an agricultural pesticide.

Operations ceased at the facility in 2009. Investigations indicated that soil, sediment, surface water, sludge, and groundwater at the site were contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs), such as benzene, chlorobenzene, carbon tetrachloride, methylene chloride, and toluene. On-site areas of potential concern included: a former industrial landfill, a wastewater treatment impoundment basin, a sludge pit disposal area, and former production areas.

SITE LOCATION

The Site is bordered to the north by Highway 42, beyond which is the Illinois-Central & Gulf Railroad, as well as various residential and commercial properties. The southern property boundary is bordered by West Seventh Street and by Roseland Park cemetery and Zeon Chemical Corporation to the south-southwest. Across from these locations are residential areas. The eastern and western boundaries are bordered by residential and commercial areas.

The Site is zoned for industrial use and this zoning category is unlikely to change in the future due to the size of the property and available infrastructure, as well as the RUAO.

ENGAGEMENT TIMELINE

MDEQ COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES BEGAN IN 2011 AND CONTINUE TODAY...



DATE	ACTIVITY
05/12/2011	Community Meeting
09/27/2011	Public Listening Session
02/06/2012	Public comments due on the approved Work Plan
03/22/2012	Meeting Meredith Anderson at Hercules
03/29/2012	Hercules 3013 –Phase 1- Field Decisions
04/20/2012	Hercules Hattiesburg – DNAPL Discovery Discussion
05/24/2012	Meeting with City of Hattiesburg Elected Officials concerning Water Impoundment Basin
07/27/2012	Meeting with City of Hattiesburg, Elected Officials
10/17/2012	Impoundment Basin Community Informational Open House
Spring 2013	Phase I sampling results presented to the community
Summer 2013	Phase II sampling results presented to the community



ENGAGEMENT TIMELINE (CONT).

DATE	ACTIVITY
03/24/2015	Public Availability Session Hercules Acronym Brochure developed
04/17/2015	Hercules Public Awareness Card
08/7/2015	Community Update on clean-up & increased truck traffic
11/22/2017	Meeting with Mayor Barker to discuss/provide update on the site
03/06/2018	Hercules Community Update meeting
09/06/2020	Meeting with Hattiesburg Representatives and Hercules/Ashland Representatives

QUICK FACTS

Hercules, Inc., replaced the sewer line beneath Providence Street that runs along the east side of the plant. The work on Providence Street was ordered by MDEQ, based on sampling in the sewer. Hercules submitted a plan to MDEQ and the EPA to manage any contaminated soil or groundwater that was found during the work. The plan contained procedures for air monitoring during the sewer line replacement. The work was overseen by the City of Hattiesburg's Public Works Department.

MDEQ staff have participated in a number of community meetings over the years and have tried to be transparent about the ongoing investigation of the site.

CONTINUED COLLABORATION

- Monthly technical calls with Hercules/Ashland
- Teleconference/virtual meetings with Hattiesburg Representatives
- Industry direct response to concerns
- Monthly Hercules Progress Reports uploaded to the electronic file room