

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
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## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Q: What are the chemicals of potential concern determined by the RCRA 3013 investigation?**

A: The chemicals of potential concern are volatile organic compounds (e.g., benzene, carbon tetrachloride, chloroform, etc.) detected in shallow groundwater.

### **Q: What are the overall findings of the sampling investigation conducted by Hercules to date?**

A: Primarily, contamination has been found in on-site, shallow groundwater in various areas of the facility, as well as in an off-site area east of the facility (Area 1). Investigations are still underway to determine if groundwater contamination has migrated off-site in Area 2.

### **Q: Should area residents be concerned about exposure to site contaminants?**

A: At this time, there is no known human exposure to site contaminants. Contaminants are primarily located in shallow groundwater that is not accessed by the public, and the City of Hattiesburg supplies residents with public water from a separate and deeper groundwater system. The EPA and MDEQ will continue to oversee all actions by Hercules and will take appropriate response actions if a public health hazard develops.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

For more information, please contact any of the following:

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## **Information Repositories**

- [www.epa.gov/region4/foiapg/readingroom/hercules\\_inc/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/region4/foiapg/readingroom/hercules_inc/index.htm)
- [www.deq.state.ms.us/mdeq.nsf/page/CE\\_HerculesIncHattiesburgMS?OpenDocument](http://www.deq.state.ms.us/mdeq.nsf/page/CE_HerculesIncHattiesburgMS?OpenDocument)



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY- REGION 4  
**HERCULES SITE**  
HATTIESBURG, FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI



FACT SHEET No. 9

D R A F T

JULY 2014

### INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing that Hercules Incorporated (Hercules) has entered into a Consent Order with the EPA under Section 3008(h) of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), referred to as a 3008(h) Consent Order. The 3008(h) Consent Order, effective on July 8, 2014, requires Hercules to conduct Interim Measures, such as: **(1) coordinate with and assist the City of Hattiesburg for sewer line replacement along Providence Street (adjacent to the Hercules facility), with the appropriate oversight by the EPA and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), 2) evaluation of shallow groundwater contamination originating from the Hercules facility in two specific areas (i.e., Area 1 and Area 2, see map on reverse side), with potential future remediation, (3) removal of contaminants in a groundwater monitoring well in Area 1, 4) removal of an underground petroleum storage tank in Area 2, and 5) decommissioning of the on-site wastewater treatment Impoundment Basin.**

### Types of Environmental Orders at Hercules:

- ◆ **RCRA 3013** - Issued in May 2011, this Order requires Hercules to **conduct investigations** of environmental contamination (in soil, groundwater, surface water, sediment, and air) on and originating from the Hercules facility. This work is ongoing, and an Interim Report will be available in the fall of 2014.
- ◆ **RCRA 3008(h)** - Entered into in July 2014, this Consent Order requires Hercules to **implement Interim Measures** while long-term site-wide corrective actions are developed.

**EPA and MDEQ are working in partnership to keep the local community informed and engaged during the entire Interim Measures process.**

### What activities will I see Hercules performing during the next several weeks?

- ⇒ Assistance to the City of Hattiesburg with replacement of the sewer line along Providence Street in Area 1, between 7th Street and Red Street.
- ⇒ Installation and sampling of groundwater monitoring wells in Areas 1 and 2.
- ⇒ Removal of underground structures in Area 2.