

If you have any additional questions,
please contact:

TONY RUSSELL

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
Assessment and Remediation Branch
(601)961-5318

GLORIA TATUM

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
Field Services Division
(601)961-5011

KELLY RILEY

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
Legal Division
(601)961-5369



Mississippi Department of **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

**STATUS of
CLEANUP ACTIVITY
for the former Gulf
States Creosote
site in Hattiesburg**

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MDEQ strives to preserve
and protect Mississippi's air,
land, and water through fair
and responsible regulation.



P.O. Box 10385
Jackson, MS 39289-0385
www.deq.state.ms.us

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is publishing this fact sheet to inform the citizens of Hattiesburg and the surrounding area about the status of cleanup activities at the former creosote plant located in and around Courtesy Motors on West Pine Street.

The former creosote plant operated from the early 1900's to approximately 1960. The contamination at the former Gulf States Creosote site occurred prior to 1960, long before the creation of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. In 1962, the site was redeveloped for commercial and light industrial use.

YELLOW TEXT indicates work completed

Location #1:

Former Fill Area

Proposed Cleanup: Install sheet-piling wall along the creek bank to eliminate seepage into the creek, install monitoring and recovery wells along the wall to monitor and recover any free product that may collect, install concrete culvert from West Pine Street to Creek, cover the area with a liner, and plant trees to prevent mounding of groundwater along the sheet-piling wall.

Location #2:

Former Process Area

Proposed Cleanup: Remove creosote contaminated soil from the wooden substructure and the concrete sump area, backfill with compacted clay fill material, regrade the surface and cap the area with a liner and asphalt.

Location #3:

Southern Railroad Track Area

Proposed Cleanup: Remove creosote contaminated sediment and soils from within and beneath the drainage ditch. Depending on the effects on the integrity of the railroad tracks, the soils will either be capped in place or removed.

Location #4:

Northeast Ditch from Scooba Street to Katie Street

Proposed Cleanup: Remove contaminated sediment and soils, install a liner and sand bed in the ditch, install culvert and surface drains, and then backfill around culverts with clean soil. The drainage ditch project is complete except for replacing the culverts beneath Martin Luther King Avenue, Florence Avenue and Eastside Avenue, and completing inlet boxes, grading and seeding. Additional potential areas of concern along the drainage ditch have been identified and will be assessed and remediated over the next few months as needed.

In an effort to answer your questions, MDEQ has listed answers to the most frequently asked questions about the proposed cleanup. If you have any other questions, please contact Tony Russell at (601) 961-5318.

Question 1. Will the City's drinking water be contaminated by the contamination in the shallow water table?

No. There is approximately 150 to 200 feet of Hattiesburg Clay between the contaminated shallow water table and drinking water. The City of Hattiesburg's wells are screened in the Catahoula Formation. The Catahoula Formation is a geologic formation, approximately 660 feet thick, that extends from 530 feet to 1190 feet below ground surface, from which the City of Hattiesburg obtains its drinking water.

Question 2. Is the soil that is stockpiled along the drainage ditch contaminated? **No.** This soil came from either clean areas of the drainage ditch or from areas outside the drainage ditch pathway and will be used for backfill. When installing the larger drainage pipe, a lot of excess soil was generated from the excavations. This non-contaminated soil was stockpiled until needed for backfill.



Question 3. What happened to the excavated contaminated soil from the drainage ditch?

All the contaminated soil was loaded directly into trucks for disposal and sent to permitted landfills. Each truck that leaves the site is covered to

further insure that soil is not spilled enroute to the landfill.



Question 4. Is dust a concern? The Health and

Safety Plan requires that the dust be controlled. The only dust noticed during the unannounced site inspections was on Martin Luther King Drive where vehicle traffic was stirring up dust. The dust is generated from truck traffic across the non-contaminated soil that is being brought in as backfill material. The soil excavated from the ditch is moist and is being loaded directly into covered trucks for disposal. Even though the dust is from non-contaminated soil, the area is being sprayed with water from the City's potable water supply system to minimize the nuisance effect caused by the dust.

Question 5. Is air pollution a concern?

No. The air is being monitored as required in the Health and Safety Plan for both the process area and the drainage ditch removal projects. There are both stationary and mobile units being used for monitoring purposes. The readings are being documented on a daily basis and recorded in a permanent file as required in the Health and Safety Plan. There are odors associated with the creosote as it is removed, but none of the permissible exposure limits for the creosote compounds have been exceeded in the work zone. Therefore, although workers and residents may smell the creosote as it is excavated, there is no associated health risk because the air is being closely monitored.