



Hercules LLC  
Hercules Research Center  
500 Hercules Road  
Wilmington, DE 19808-1599  
Writer's Direct Dial: 302-995-3456

October 20, 2022

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Mr. Maher Budeir  
Corrective Action Section  
Resource Conservation and Restoration Division  
USEPA-Region 4  
61 Forsyth Street, SW  
Mail Code: 9T25  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960

RE: **Hercules Hattiesburg Facility – Hattiesburg, MS – Monthly Progress Report  
(September 2022)**

**USEPA Region IV, RCRA 3008(h) Order  
Docket # RCRA -04-2014-4201(b)**

**USEPA Region IV, RCRA 3013(a) Order  
Docket # RCRA -04-2011-4251**

Dear Mr. Budeir:

This report summarizes the activities accomplished from September 1 through September 30, 2022, in order to comply with Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) 3008(h) and RCRA 3013(a) Orders for the former Hercules Hattiesburg Facility.

**TASKS INITIATED, CONTINUED, OR COMPLETED DURING SEPTEMBER 2022**

- Participated in a conference call with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) on September 6, 2022, to discuss the legal aspects of the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent for Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for the site, the Statement of Work (SOW) for the RI/FS, and next steps for the project.
- Finalized and submitted the *Response to Comments Letter* on September 9, 2022, to address the USEPA comments on the *Draft Baseline Risk Assessment Report* in accordance with the discussions during the August 17, 2022, team call.
- Participated in conference calls with the USEPA and Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) on September 13 and September 27, 2022, to provide updates on supplemental site maintenance activities, discuss technical aspects to incorporate current obligations and the work completed under the RCRA Orders, the process for transitioning the site to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) program, and present the proposed pilot test to evaluate propane biosparge for treatment of 1,4-dioxane in groundwater at the site.

- Participated in a meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, on September 20, 2022, with the USEPA to continue legal discussions on the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent for the RI/FS for the site, the SOW for the RI/FS, and next steps for the project.
- Received comments from the USEPA on September 27, 2022, regarding the *Draft Thermal In-Situ Sustainable Remediation Pilot Test Work Plan* submitted on September 17, 2021, describing the proposed methodology to assess the use of a sustainable thermal approach to expedite groundwater quality restoration at the site.
- Continued completion of supplemental site maintenance activities (e.g., mowing, removal of vines and shrubs, coordination with the City of Hattiesburg to ensure the right-of-way outside the fence is also mowed) to address comments received from the community during the May 19, 2022, hybrid (virtual and in-person) public meeting.
- Continued with the pre-demolition assessment, development of a work plan, and identification of qualified contractors to support removal of the remaining tanks, pipes, and structures at the site.
- Continued preparation of the next *Consolidated Monitoring Report*, summarizing the November 2021 sampling events for the Restrictive Use Agreed Order (RUAO), Area #1, Area #2, Poly Pale™ Area, and Northeast Delineation (third quarterly sampling) monitoring programs. The document will also summarize the fourth quarterly sampling completed in February 2022 for the Northeast Delineation monitoring program, as well as the May 2022 sampling events for the RUAO, Area #1, Area #2, Poly Pale™ area, Northeast Delineation, and Hattiesburg Formation monitoring programs.

#### **PROBLEMS AND/OR DELAYS**

- None identified.

#### **TASKS PLANNED FOR OCTOBER 2022**

- Finalize and submit the next *Consolidated Monitoring Report*, summarizing the November 2021 sampling events for the RUAO, Area #1, Area #2, Poly Pale™ Area, and Northeast Delineation (third quarterly sampling) monitoring programs. The document will also summarize the fourth quarterly sampling completed in February 2022 for the Northeast Delineation monitoring program, as well as the May 2022 sampling events for the RUAO, Area #1, Area #2, Poly Pale™ area, Northeast Delineation, and Hattiesburg Formation monitoring programs.
- Request reduction in Financial Assurance for decommissioning of the impoundment basin in connection with the RCRA 3008(h) Order.
- Continue implementation of supplemental site maintenance activities and preparations for removal of the remaining tanks, pipes, and structures at the site.
- Continue submission of ongoing USEPA Data Archival and ReTrieval electronic data deliverables.
- Initiate preparations for completion of the November 2022 sampling events for the RUAO, Area #1, Area #2, Area #3, Poly Pale™ Area, and Northeast Delineation monitoring programs.
- Participate in conference calls with the USEPA and/or MDEQ to continue legal and technical discussions on the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent for the RI/FS for the site, the SOW for the RI/FS, and the next steps for the project.

## **PERSONNEL AND/OR PROJECT CHANGES**

- The USEPA proposed the site to the Superfund Program's National Priorities List on March 18, 2022.

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

- The public comment period for the proposal by the USEPA to list the site on the Superfund Program's National Priorities List was extended as requested by the City of Hattiesburg. The comment period was extended to end on June 16, 2022, to allow for further community engagement.

## **USEPA/MDEQ SUPPORT NEEDED**

- Review the *Final Dense Non-Aqueous Phase Liquid Supplemental Investigation Report* submitted on July 29, 2020, incorporating new data and addressing USEPA comments on the draft version.
- Review the *Supplemental Groundwater Investigation Report* submitted on September 25, 2020, summarizing the assessment data for groundwater quality delineation along property boundaries.
- Review the *Impoundment Basin and ET-10 Decommissioning Completion Report* submitted on April 28, 2021, summarizing the decommissioning activities completed in accordance with the *Revised Interim Measures Work Plan* (dated November 7, 2014) and the *Final Interim Measures Design Report* (dated March 17, 2015).
- Review the *Draft 1,4-Dioxane Treatment – Propane Biosparge Pilot Test Work Plan* submitted on May 27, 2021, describing the proposed methodology to assess an in-situ approach as a viable technology for treatment of 1,4-dioxane at the site.
- Review the *Remedial Design Work Plan – Sludge Pits* (dated September 28, 2021), describing the selected remedy and associated data that will be used to complete the voluntary remedial action for the sludge pit area.
- Review the *Poly Pale™ Area Pilot Test Completion Report* submitted on October 29, 2021, summarizing the results of the air sparge/soil vapor extraction pilot study and proposing the next steps for the Poly Pale™ Area.
- Review the *Response to Comments Letter* submitted on January 31, 2022, addressing the review comments provided by the USEPA on November 4, 2021, regarding the *Long-Term Groundwater Monitoring Optimization Plan* (dated April 28, 2021).
- Review the *2021 First Semiannual Consolidated Monitoring Report* submitted on March 11, 2022, summarizing the May 2021 sampling events for the RUAO, Area #1, Area #2, Poly Pale™ Area, Hattiesburg Formation, and Northeast Delineation (first quarterly event) monitoring programs and the September 2021 second quarterly event for the Northeast Delineation monitoring program.
- Review the *Response to Comments Letter* submitted on September 9, 2022, to address the USEPA comments on the *Draft Baseline Risk Assessment Report*.
- Participate in conference calls and/or meetings to continue legal and technical discussions on the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent for RI/FS for the site, the SOW for the RI/FS, and next steps for the project.

Mr. Maher Budeir  
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Please call me at 302-995-3456 if you have any questions regarding this Monthly Progress Report.

Sincerely,

  
*for* Timothy D. Hassett  
Project Coordinator

TDH  
Hburg3013\_September 2022

cc: Cassandra Johnson – MDEQ, Jackson, MS (electronic)  
Hunter Hudson – MDEQ, Jackson, MS (electronic)  
Robin Lampkin – Hercules, Dublin, OH (electronic)  
Jason Hughes – Arcadis, Birmingham, AL (electronic)