

Hercules, Inc.

SUPERFUND SITE

Hattiesburg, MS



DECEMBER 2025

INTRODUCTION

EPA and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) are working together with Hercules to complete the site investigation and define the full extent of contamination. Additional field work is planned for 2026 to address remaining data gaps, including groundwater, soil, sediment and surface water sampling both on and off the Hercules property. Potential impacts to the Bouie River will also be assessed.

EPA is also working with a private contractor on a Technical Assistance Needs Assessment (TANA) to improve how technical information is shared with the community. A public meeting and community interviews were held in September and October, and a summary report with recommendations will be provided to EPA by the end of this year. Those recommendations will be shared with the community in early 2026.

SITE WORK PLAN

The Remedial Investigation Work Plan (the Site work plan) describes the remaining sampling work needed at the site. It is currently under review and will be posted on EPA's website once finalized. It explains what samples Hercules needs to take as well as how they must be collected and analyzed. The data collected will be used to develop several cleanup options for consideration.

RESIDENTIAL SAMPLING

Sampling is based on data and site-specific needs. If investigations show that site-related contamination may have reached your property, Hercules may be required to collect samples, or EPA will conduct sampling. If neither EPA nor Hercules has contacted you, no past or current data suggests a need for further action at your residence.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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SUPERFUND PROCESS

We are currently in the Remedial Investigation phase, which involves sampling and assessing risks. Next, the Feasibility Study will evaluate findings and develop cleanup options. EPA will then present a Proposed Plan, gather input and document the selected remedy in a Record of Decision (ROD). After the ROD, cleanup work begins. The timeline varies based on contamination and the chosen remedy. EPA will continue to share updates and engage with the community throughout the process.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In December 2022, Hercules Inc. was added to the National Priorities List, giving EPA full authority to investigate contamination and hold Hercules accountable for cleanup costs.

The large site size, long operational history and variety of chemicals at Hercules have made investigating and cleanup complex and time-consuming. Initial investigations and restrictions were required in the late 1990s and early 2000s by the MDEQ. EPA later issued other requirements for monitoring and interim actions under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

Under the RCRA program, significant progress was made to address the most urgent risks and better understand the extent of contamination. EPA and Hercules closed the impoundment basin, repaired a collapsed sewer line, removed contamination from an off-site well and mapped groundwater contamination and movement.

EPA is using sampling data from past RCRA investigations to help guide where additional Superfund sampling is needed and to build a more complete understanding of the site. In 2023 and 2024, EPA also conducted vapor intrusion investigations in the residential area east of the Hercules facility to evaluate potential health risks. Currently, EPA has not identified any exposures that pose an unacceptable health risk.

As long-term cleanup under the Superfund program moves forward, EPA will continue to investigate and closely monitor conditions at and around the site to protect community health and safety.

PREVIOUSLY COLLECTED DATA

Links for RCRA sampling data and other site-related documents can be found on the following websites:



***Disclaimer:** MDEQ's Office of Community Engagement provides digital access to files in its Electronic File Room as a convenience. While their office attempts to update the electronic file room regularly, MDEQ cannot guarantee that all documents associated with a given project are included. To review the entire file on a project, please submit a Public Records Request.



**Region 4
Virtual Reading
Room**



**EPA - Hercules, Inc.
Superfund
Webpage**

HEALTH INFORMATION

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is a federal public health agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). ATSDR will do the following:

1) Listen and collect your health concerns; 2) Determine if there has been exposure to a hazardous substance and if this exposure could affect your health; 3) Offer recommendations on how you can reduce, stop, or prevent exposure to the substance; 4) Inform and involve the community in their findings and other activities to help address your concerns.

If you have concerns about your personal health, please consult your doctor.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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