



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY- REGION IV
HERCULES INCORPORATED (HATTIESBURG) SITE
HATTIESBURG, FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI



Fact Sheet No. 2

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CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information on investigation efforts, or should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to phone, write, or email one of the following points- of- contact:

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Information Repository

Library of Hattiesburg-Petal-Forrest County
329 Hardy Street
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39401

EPA Web Site

<http://www.epa.gov/region4/foiapg/readingroom/index.htm>

If you are interested in receiving updates by email, please send your email address to MDEQ_Community_Engagement@mdeq.ms.gov

APPROVAL OF LIMITED PHASE I ACTIVITIES- PRIVATE WELL SAMPLING

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) have reviewed the revised Phase I Sampling and Analysis Work Plan for the Hercules Incorporated, (Hattiesburg) site. On September 30, 2011, EPA approved limited Phase I activities and authorized Hercules to proceed with this effort as soon as possible.

The following Phase I actions have been approved:

- confirmation of existing private wells within a 1/2 mile radius of the Hercules facility
- field verification of wells within a 1/2 mile radius of the facility through both the database search and responses to the Water Well Questionnaire
- acquisition of property access agreements with property owners to sample verified wells within a 1/2 mile radius of the facility
- sampling of wells where access has been granted by property owners

WHAT CAN THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY EXPECT

Residents with private water wells on their property can expect to receive a letter from Hercules that will request permission to verify if a well is on the property. Once the verification of the well is determined, Hercules will send an access agreement to the property owner to sample the well. Without a signed access agreement, samples cannot be taken. EPA will determine if any groundwater potentially impacted by the Hercules site could pose a potential risk to residents and could require further action.

Samples will be taken from the least intrusive locations and in a manner that is least disruptive to residents or tenants. Sampling results will be available to the public after the data is validated and the final report is submitted to EPA. Prior to that time, the EPA project leader is available to discuss preliminary sampling results with owners and occupants upon request.

The remainder of the Phase I Work Plan is continuing to undergo review and is expected to be approved by early November, at which time a community comment period on the Phase I Work Plan will begin. Comments received regarding the Phase I investigation will be considered for the Phase II investigation.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Why should I sign an access agreement to allow sampling on my property?
Without a signed access agreement, project personnel cannot take samples. And it is only through sampling of the well water that EPA can either: 1) determine that the groundwater presents no unacceptable risk relating to the Hercules site for residents or occupants and requires no further action or 2) determine that a property requires remediation to mitigate any such risk.

Q: If sampling is scheduled for my property, does it mean my property is contaminated?

No. Sampling and subsequent analyses of the samples are only the scientific mechanisms to determine whether or not contamination exists. We expect that sampling activities will confirm that properties are not adversely affected by historic Hercules operations. If sampling indicates the presence of contamination, that could pose a health risk to you or your family, EPA will advise you if any steps will need to be taken.

Q: Can I find out the sampling results for my property even if there are no risks?

Sampling results will be available to the owners/occupants of sampled property after the data is validated and the final report is submitted to EPA. Prior to that time, the EPA project leader will be available to discuss preliminary sampling results with owners and occupants upon request.

Q: How will I know when Hercules is going to sample my property?

The access agreement requires Hercules to notify landowners before sampling begins. Hercules personnel will work closely with property owners and residents to accommodate special needs or scheduling necessities. Wherever possible, samples will be taken from the least intrusive locations on private property and in a manner that is least disruptive to residents.

Q: Will the project affect my family and its activities?

Ensuring the safety of the public and our workers will be our primary concern throughout the project. Wherever possible, samples will be taken from the least intrusive locations on private property (with property owner permission, of course) and in a manner that is least disruptive to residents or tenants.

Q: If a contaminant is found on my property, does it mean my family is at risk?

Not necessarily. There is a potential risk only if: 1) a discovered contaminant is found at a concentration that could cause harm (determined by the EPA); 2) a person could be exposed to the contaminant in such a way as to cause harm.

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