



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



Fact Sheet No. 8

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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Information Repositories

www.epa.gov/region4/foiapg/readingroom/hercules_inc/index.htm

www.deq.state.ms.us/mdeq.nsf/page/CE_HerculesIncHattiesburgMS?OpenDocument

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Update on Impoundment Basin & US EPA Administrative Order Investigations

IMPOUNDMENT BASIN

In October 2012, MDEQ approved Hercules to proceed with implementation of the Impoundment Basin Decommissioning Work Plan. The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality is managing the oversight of this project and measures will be taken to protect the public and the environment.

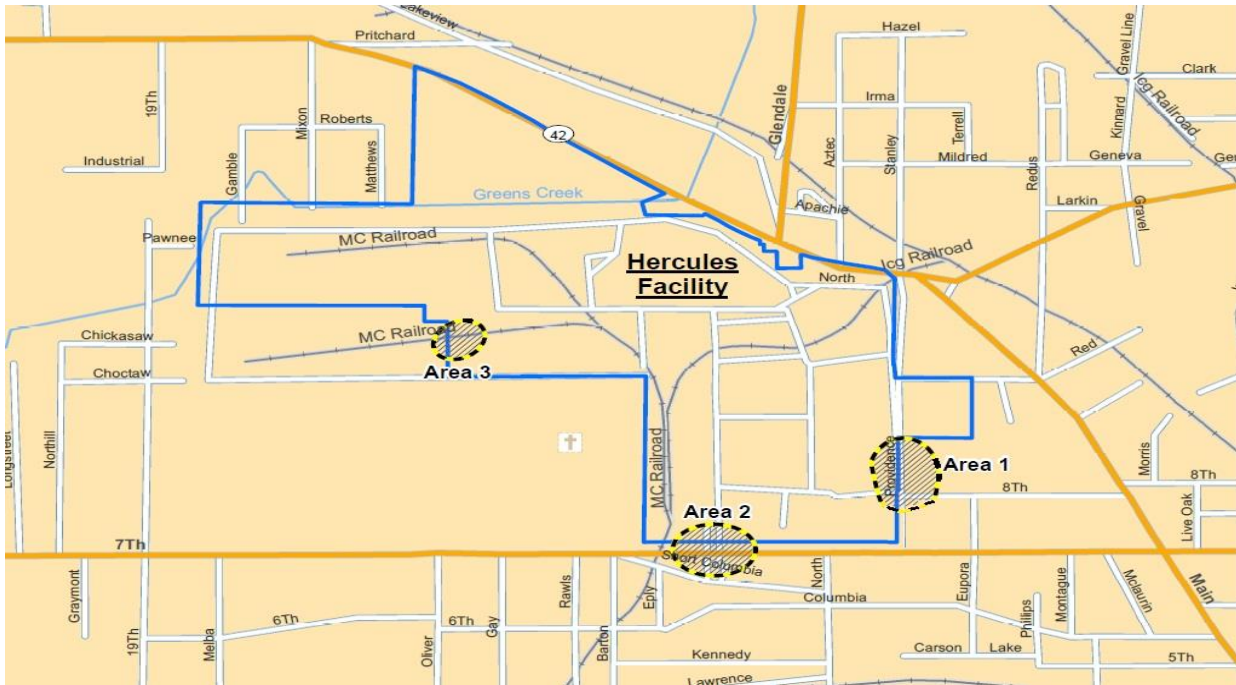
In January 2013, contractors experienced difficulties in dewatering the sludge. The technology for dewatering the sludge in the impoundment basin was not working effectively. Dewatering operations have been on hold until the contractor can test the sludge to better understand what technology to use. To this date, the removal of the sludge materials in the impoundment basin at Hercules has not resumed. A new plan has been submitted and is currently under review.

US EPA ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER UPDATES

Under the EPA-issued RCRA 3013 Order, Hercules has conducted extensive on-site and off-site sampling of groundwater, soil, surface water, and sediment since May 2011. From this data, three areas of impacted groundwater (or "plumes") were identified that required additional sampling in order to further define the boundaries of these plumes (located to the east, south, and west of the Hercules property; see map below). No other areas of off-site contamination have been identified at this time.

In January, March, and September 2013, additional sampling was conducted east of the property in the vicinity of Providence and 8th Streets. Groundwater and air samplings were collected to define the boundaries of the plume and to determine if chemicals from the groundwater have migrated into one residence near the plume. The second and third areas of interest are located in the southern and western areas of the facility. Follow-up sampling in these areas were conducted during September 2013. Groundwater data from all three areas was received for review by EPA and MDEQ on February 21, 2014. EPA and MDEQ will direct Hercules to conduct additional sampling, if needed, after review is complete.

All three of these plumes are located in the shallow groundwater system. These plumes pose no health hazard to the community. Public water supplied by the City of Hattiesburg is drawn from water wells that are much deeper and not connected to the shallow groundwater system.



Next Steps:

- EPA and MDEQ are working with Hercules to summarize all results from Phase I and Phase II sampling. This report is expected to be complete by summer 2014.
- Additional sampling needed, if any, will be conducted in the summer of 2014.
- A human health and ecological risk assessment will be performed using Phase I and Phase II data when all data is received.
- Site remediation decisions will be based on the risk assessment conclusions.