



For Immediate Release:

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Response Activities Continue at REEF Facility

MONTGOMERY –The Alabama Department of Environmental Management, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Talladega County Emergency Management Agency, Alabama Emergency Management Agency, and others continue their response activities to address the issues at the abandoned REEF facility in Sylacauga. According to ADEM officials, site stabilization efforts have continued and on-site challenges are being addressed with the utilization of federal resources.

A network of absorbent booms has been placed in and around Shirtee Creek to address the unpermitted surface discharges of wastewater from the facility. On-scene personnel continue to monitor the area around Shirtee Creek for adverse impacts to fish and other aquatic organisms.

In addition, an air scrubber system has been installed to alleviate the large bubble of gases underneath the tarp covering the wastewater basin. The scrubber system began operating this morning and will continue to operate, treating all of the gases/vapors that are removed from underneath the tarp.

Ambient air monitoring has also been conducted at seven locations throughout adjacent neighborhoods to ensure citizens are safe and are not being adversely impacted by the on-site response activities. Data from the ambient air monitoring in the neighborhoods has not identified any elevated concentrations that present a health hazard.

ADEM and other agencies at the Unified Command Center will continue operations at the site and will continue to maintain open lines of communication with local elected officials. In addition, a website has been established at http://www.epaosc.org/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=8217 to provide citizens and other interested parties with up-to-date information regarding the response efforts.

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