

**United States Environmental Protection Agency**  
**Region IV**  
**POLLUTION REPORT**

**Date:** Friday, June 17, 2011  
**From:** Terry Stilman, On Scene Coordinator

**Subject:** Slag processing  
Gulf States Steel  
2800 Norris Ave, Gadsden, AL  
Latitude: 34.0119000  
Longitude: -86.0469000

<b>POLREP No.:</b>	30	<b>Site #:</b>	A499
<b>Reporting Period:</b>	5/26 - 6/17	<b>D.O. #:</b>	
<b>Start Date:</b>	8/1/2007	<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA
<b>Mob Date:</b>	8/1/2007	<b>Response Type:</b>	Time-Critical
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL
<b>Completion Date:</b>		<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>CERCLIS ID #:</b>	ALD004014973	<b>Contract #</b>	
<b>RCRIS ID #:</b>			

**Site Description**

A Time-Critical Removal Action began in September 2009 to address the hazards associated with the former Gulf State Steel Powerhouse, lagoons and Slag Piles.

Remaining removal activities: Slag pile processing, remaining waste lagoon management (2) and slag pile landfill creation. The slag piles are the source of continued release of characteristic hazardous waste. The caustic leachate containing pH values as high as 12.5 from the slag piles is directly discharging into Black Creek, an adjacent wetland area, and a residential neighborhood from drainage ditches outside the Site fence. Sloughing of slag from the piles has been observed on both the northern and southern piles. The sloughing allows for the production of more leachate due to the increase in surface area of new unweathered slag.

**Current Activities**

Slag processing from both the North and South piles continues. Material from both piles is transported to two on-site processing facilities for separation. Recyclable material is transported off-site. Non-recyclable material is moved to an area close to the North pile for consolidation in an on-Site Landfill and capping to halt the further production of high pH leachate.

Leachate coming from slag piles is currently being monitored for pH. pH ranges from 9 to 12.5. Air monitoring for particulates is also conducted during operations.

ERRS is focussing on increasing movement of recyclable material off-site and increasing the elevation of the on-site landfill to a final grade.

Material is dewatered if necessary before processing. Dust control continues.

Operation of processing at two plants (north and south) continues.

USCG GST on-site to assist with ERRS and START contractor oversight, including the operation of Data-rams for air monitoring.

**Planned Removal Actions**

Slag screening, reclamation and leachate reduction operations will continue.

Additional sources for recycling of A, B and C fines continues to be sought.

To date slag pile totals:

North Pile

- Total from original pile that has been processed or staged for processing approximately 55%, of that total - Recycled or awaiting shipment for recycling – 13%.

#### South Pile

- Total from original pile that has been processed or staged for processing approximately 25%, of that total - recycled or waiting shipment for recycling 3%.

#### **Next Steps**

EPA will investigate potential actions to stabilize the remaining two waste lagoons.

EPA will develop a waste lagoon and creek sampling plan.

EPA will also develop a final landfill management plan.

#### **Key Issues**

A small fish kill occurred in Black Creek on 6/14/11. Black Creek is adjacent to the Site. pH measurements from the site outfall were approximately 9.6. The fish kill also appeared to start some 500 feet north of the Site. ADEM is investigating the possible cause.

[response.epa.gov/GulfStatesSteel](http://response.epa.gov/GulfStatesSteel)