

Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Forrest County Environmental Support Team

Sherri Jones

Kerr McGee aka Tronox

MDEQ

EPA Region 4

HATTIESBURG
AND GORDON CREEK

GULF STATE CREOSOTE
MSD985967199

US HIGHWAY 11

Creosote Plants:

Gulf States Creosoting Co., Hattiesburg, MS, 1920's-1950's,

A human health risk assessment was completed by Kerr-McGee and reviewed by EPA and MDEQ staff to evaluate "baseline" risk if the site was cleaned up and continued to be used as it is today. The assessment evaluated the potential risks to humans through several risk exposure pathways at the site: (1) to on-site workers and visitors through exposure to chemicals in surface soils through incidental contact with the skin or ingestion of soil; (2) to on-site workers from breathing contaminated dust from the site; (3) to site workers, visitors, and residents who might drink the contaminated surface water; and (4) to residents who might come in contact with contaminated sediments.

The hazards posed by the chemical constituents in soils, sediment, groundwater, and surface water for health effects other than an increased risk of cancer were well below a level of concern.

The reviewed health assessment on file in the Hattiesburg Public Library recommended removing the residents from the contaminated areas. The MDEQ fully intended to implement this part of the health assessment until the settlement lawyers informed MDEQ that they would work that out. The Work out left the residents in harm's way. Lawyers were allowed to modify MDEQ policy and procedures.

Concentrations of naphthalene in the groundwater beneath the old "process" area and south of the Southern Railroad exceed the acceptable level for drinking water. Although the groundwater is not currently used for drinking water, it is considered a potential drinking water source by the state. No contaminated groundwater from the site is currently used or has been used for human consumption to our knowledge.

The Drinking water wells have been shut down for pulling sand. If the wells pull sand are they not also providing a gradient for the contaminated plume?

The City of Hattiesburg provides the neighborhood water supply and the City's water supply is not affected by this contaminated groundwater. There is no **current** risk to residents from the contaminated groundwater. The City of Hattiesburg has passed a City Ordinance that no water wells can be drilled within the City Limits without a permit.

Location #1:

Former Fill Area

Proposed Cleanup: Install sheet-piling wall along the creek bank to eliminate seepage into the creek, install monitoring and recovery wells along the wall to monitor and recover any free product that may collect, install concrete culvert from West Pine Street to Creek, cover the area with a liner, and plant trees to prevent mounding of groundwater along the sheet piling wall.

This remedy has failed. Creosote is seeping through the wall.

Location #2:

Former Process Area

Proposed Cleanup: Remove creosote contaminated soil from the wooden substructure and the concrete sump area, back fill with compacted clay fill material, re grade the surface and cap the area with a liner and asphalt.

This remedy failed to remove all of the Creosote as Creosote remained under the Ford Dealership Building

Location #3:

Southern Railroad Track Area

Proposed Cleanup: Remove creosote contaminated sediment and soils from within and beneath the drainage ditch. Depending on the effects on the integrity of the railroad tracks, the soils will either be capped in place or removed.

This remedy has failed as documented by APEX environmental as Pentachlorophenol is in the surface soil (0-4 ft) at levels above the EPA TRG. TRPH is pumping out of the ground at the end of Timothy Lane in Hattiesburg and MDEQ has testing which is over a year old and has failed to act.

Location #4:

Northeast Ditch from Scooba Street to Katie Street

Proposed Cleanup: Remove contaminated sediment and soils, install a liner and sand bed in the ditch, install culvert and surface drains, and then backfill around culverts with clean soil. The drainage ditch project is complete except for replacing the culverts beneath Martin Luther King Avenue, Florence Avenue and Eastside Avenue, and completing inlet boxes, grading and seeding. Additional potential areas of concern along the drainage ditch have been identified and will be assessed and remediated over the next few months as needed.

This remedy has failed Creosote has been left in place under an elevated foundation at Down Home Cooking and the Adjacent Flooring Company which is certainly impacted by shallow groundwater. Contamination was left in place along the route of the Ditch as the cleanup was restricted to a width of 3 feet in the ditch bed; contamination outside this limit was simply left in place. Residents along the Ditch Bed still encounter Creosote in routine home improvement projects such as installing fencing.

Dawn C. Taylor, Chief
Superfund Site Evaluation Section
Superfund Remedial and Site Evaluation Branch
Superfund Division
U.S. EPA Region 4

61 Forsyth Street, SW
 Atlanta, GA 30303
 404-562-8575 work
taylor.dawn@epa.gov

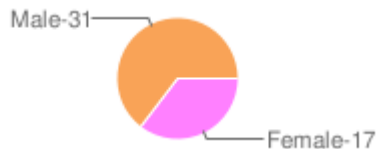
Recently Dawn C. Taylor, Chief Superfund Site Evaluation Section responded with information that an inspector was sent to the Gordon’s Creek Site in Hattiesburg, MS on September 8,2009. This inspector failed to find the ball of weathered Creosote on the retaining wall. Pictures taken September 2, 2009 prior to the inspector and October 7, 2009 after the inspector show the material is still on the wall with the bare places which I sampled still visible.

Since 2007 we have tried to ask for the proper officials to revisit the site. We have request assistance from City, County, State and Federal Elected Officials. We have met with MDEQ Director Trudy Fisher and we have contacted EPA Region 4 officials. One of our pieces of correspondence early in this effort from Ms. Taylor, “My Congressional Liaison said I did not need the data in order to make an assessment”. Now that you have the data from APEX Consultants you have to farm the data out to a contractor for assessment? The last in a long line of insults to our intelligence is an EPA inspector who inspects and investigates and misses stains on concrete and a ball of material on the side of a metal wall which is not an insect nest. Field TRPH Data indicates that the material contains hydrocarbons in excess of 1900ppm.

At this point what we need are the people who responded to Columbus, MS –Kerr McGee aka Tronox site.

As a citizen of the State of Mississippi and on behalf of Forrest County Environmental Support Team and the impacted Citizens of Hattiesburg, MS we respectfully request that Administrator Jackson please send a honest, reliable, fair investigator to Hattiesburg, MS to address the Kerr McGee aka Tronox Remediation sites and the remedies which were employed by Kerr McGee aka Tronox.

**Infant Mortality
 Forrest, Mississippi**



	Female	Male	Total
Black	11	20	31
White	6	11	17
Other	0	0	0
Total	17	31	48

Infant Mortality Rate: 8.9 per 1000 Live Births

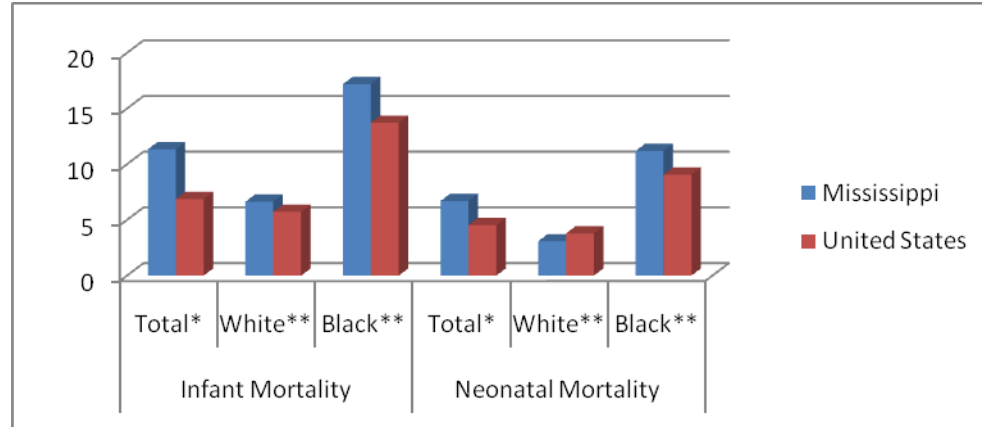


2004 data.

Infant mortality rates higher than the national rate may be an indicator of an [environmental justice](#) community.

Child Health USA 2007

State	Infant Mortality			Neonatal Mortality		
	Total*	White**	Black**	Total*	White**	Black**
Mississippi	11.35	6.64	17.2	6.7	3.08	11.2
United States	6.87	5.73	13.73	4.54	3.79	9.07



AGE	TOTAL		MALE		FEMALE	
	WHITE	NON-WHITE	WHITE	NON-WHITE	WHITE	NON-WHITE
UNDER 1	3	10	1	4	2	6
(NEONATAL)	2	6	1	3	1	3
Total	5	16	2	7	3	9

