



For immediate release:
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5.6 Million Pounds of Illegal Scrap Tires Cleaned Up

MONTGOMERY - In March 2013 work began to clean up more than 5.6 million pounds of illegally dumped scrap tires near Holt in rural Tuscaloosa County. As of today the clean up is complete.

Scrap tires represent not only an eyesore but a very real environmental and health risk. Discarded tires provide a breeding ground for vectors including mosquitoes and rodents. Often scrap tire dumps catch on fire putting nearby land and structures at risk of fire. Air pollution from burning tires is both an environmental and potential health insult.

The work was accomplished using money from the Alabama Scrap Tire Fund which is administered by ADEM and the Alabama Scrap Tire Commission. The Alabama Scrap Tire Fund is supported by a \$1-per-tire fee collected on replacement tires sold in Alabama.

The Holt site was selected for cleanup based on a statewide prioritization process utilizing specific site ranking factors including the estimated volume of scrap tires and the proximity to residential areas, schools, and health care facilities as well as the potential human health and environmental threats posed by the site.

Potential contractors must meet stringent pre-qualifying requirements to ensure they have the appropriate experience, proper equipment, and sufficient financial resources to accomplish the large-scale cleanup. Qualifying contractors are subject to a competitive process. Burton Builders, Inc. / ATLACO, LLC of Belmont, Mississippi was the winning bidder and performed the work. The Department conducted oversight activities during the cleanup to monitor progress of the project.

The completion of the project marks the fifth cleanup of a large-scale unauthorized scrap tire dump. Previous remediation projects in Attalla and Prichard were completed in 2008 and 2009, respectively while projects in Robertsedale and Geneva were completed in 2011. More than seven million scrap tires have been removed from these large-scale, unauthorized dumps with a portion of the material being beneficially re-used in manufacturing or as an industrial fuel.

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