



Update on Community Environmental Sampling and Next Steps

In Collegeville, Harriman Park, and Fairmont
Neighborhoods
North Birmingham, AL

Introduction of Speakers



Environmental Basics:

What are environmental laws?

- ▶ Federal, State and Local laws regulate activities that have an environmental impact
- ▶ Laws are to safeguard environment and public health
- ▶ Different agencies have authority and oversight over different laws



What is the “EPA?”

- ▶ “EPA” stands for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- ▶ Federal Agency charged with protecting human health and the environment, by enforcing regulations based on laws passed by Congress.



What is the Federal Law, “RCRA?”

- “RCRA” stands for the “Resource Conservation and Recovery Act” passed by Congress
- This law and an amendment (1976) provided for regulating “hazardous waste”
- For RCRA, the EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson has made Community Engagement and Environmental Justice a priority



Community Engagement and Environmental Justice

Principles of Community Engagement (CE):

- People should have a say in decisions which affect their lives
- Public Input should influence decisions
- Seek out and involve those affected – to help define the problem and develop solutions

Environmental Justice (EJ):

- Equal protection for all



CE Overview

- ▶ 2009
- ▶ 2010
- ▶ 2011



Community Engagement Stakeholders

- ▶ Citizens
- ▶ Local community groups
- ▶ City Neighborhood Associations
- ▶ Community Leaders
- ▶ School District and Schools
- ▶ Agencies: Local (Jefferson County Department of Health, JCDH), State (Alabama Dept of Env. Management), Federal (ATSDR)
- ▶ Walter Coke facility
- ▶ Other partners (Head Start, churches)



RCRA Cleanup – Walter Coke, Inc

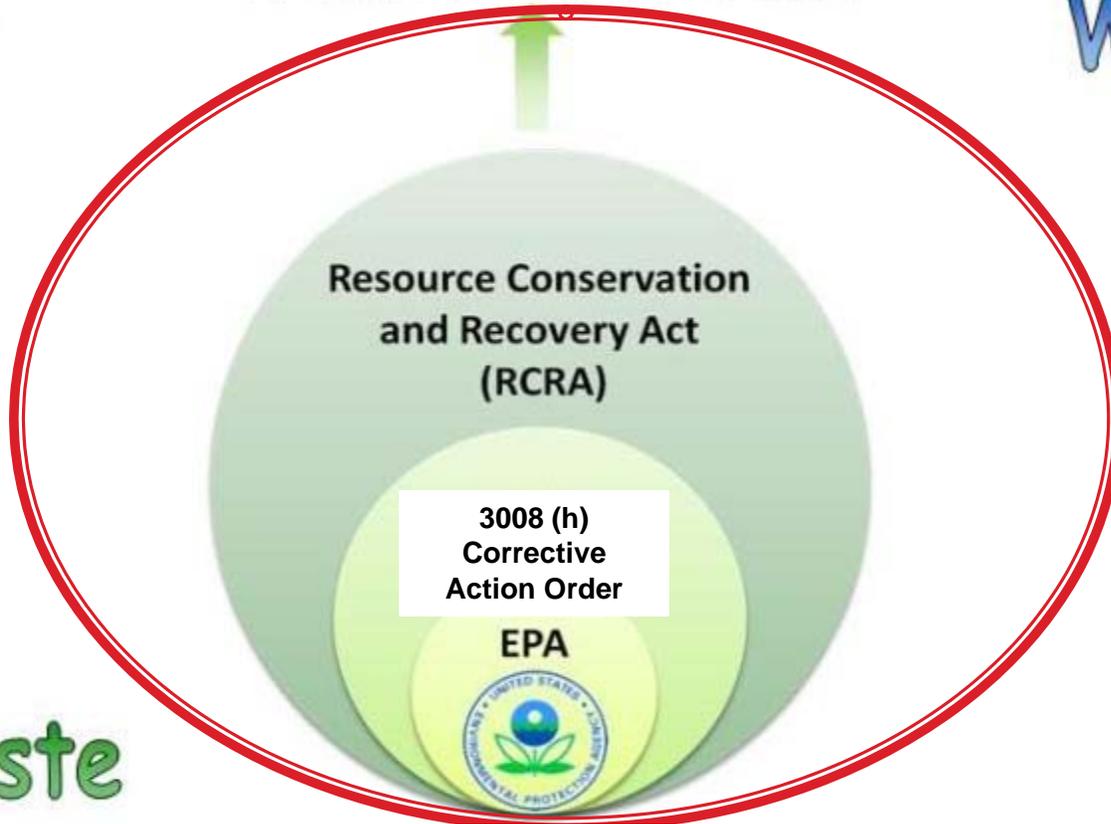
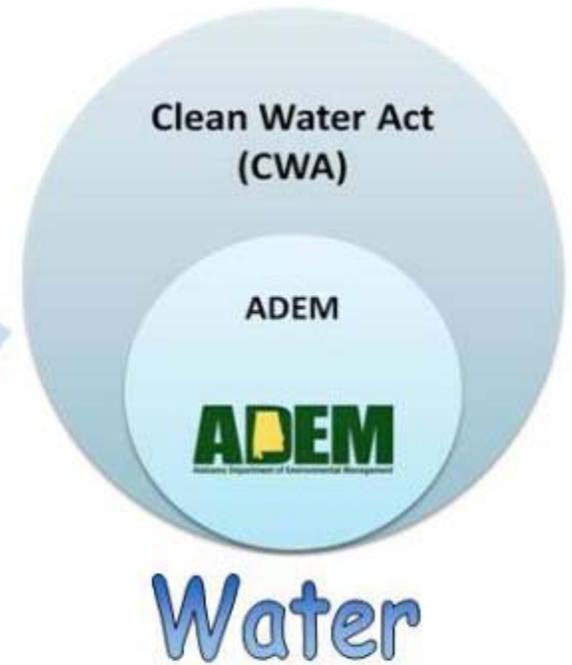
Karen Knight, Chief,
Corrective Action Section





Principal Environmental Laws that Walter Coke Inc. is subject to and overseeing agencies

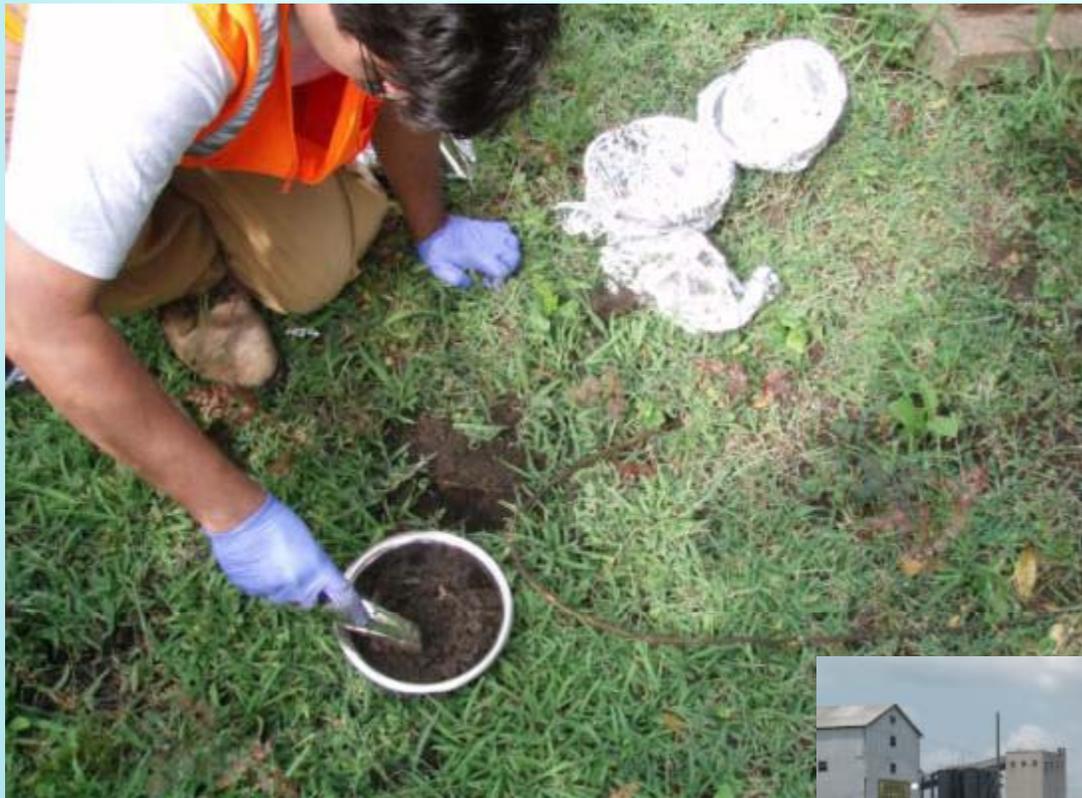
Walter Coke Inc.



RCRA Corrective Action or Cleanup Process



Soil Sampling Event (2009)

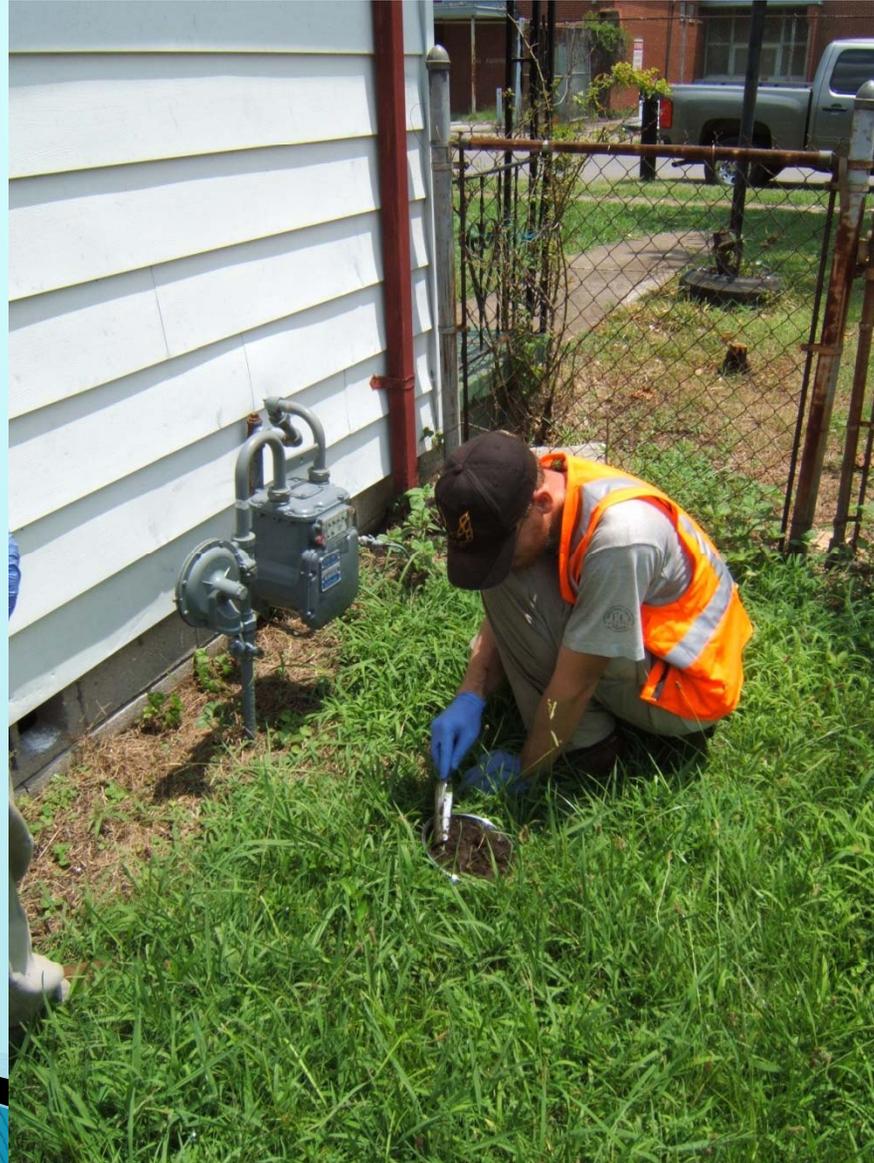


Targeted Chemicals of Potential Concern



**Benzo(a)pyrene -
PaHs
and
Arsenic in soils**

Sampling Results



A total of 66 residential properties were sampled along with four schools

21 properties out of 76 properties

> cleanup level of 1.5 mg/kg for BaP (28%)

3 properties out of 76 properties

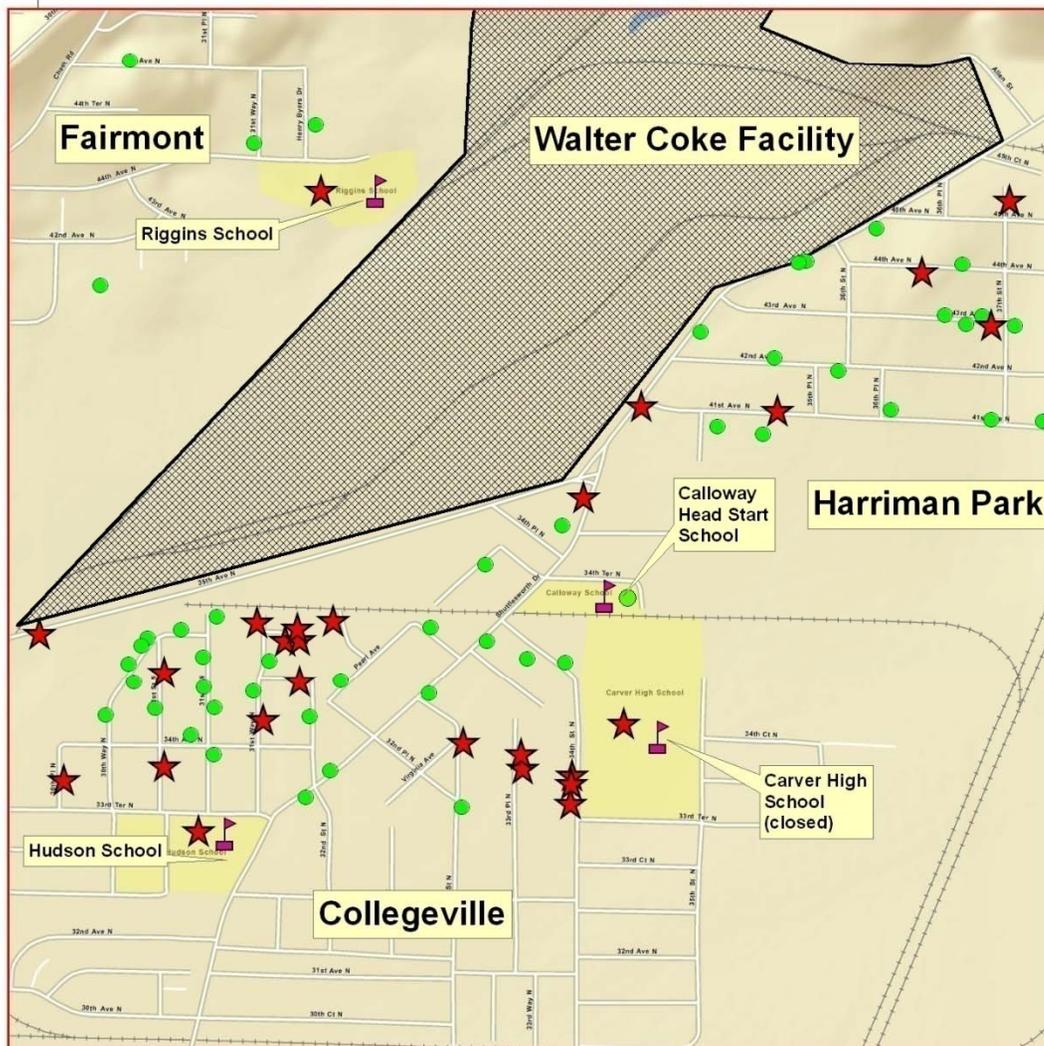
> cleanup level of 37 mg/kg for Arsenic (4%)

Schools

- Hudson and Former Carver High School exceeded both As and BaP.
- Riggins School exceeded only BaP cleanup level.
- Calloway School was below EPA's cleanup number for BaP and Arsenic.

BaP TEQ (PaHs)

Sampling Data Compared to Cleanup Levels
BaP TEQ
Community Soil Sampling Conducted by Walter Coke, Inc.



Birmingham, Alabama

Jefferson County



Birmingham



BaP TEQ = Benzo (a) Pyrene
Toxicity Equivalents

Legend

- Below Cleanup Level (1.5 mg/kg)
- ★ At or Above Cleanup Level (1.5 mg/kg)

NOTE:

Soil Cleanup levels are conservative risk-based values developed by EPA that are health-based. Results above Cleanup levels may present a 1 in 10,000 (1×10^{-4}) increased cancer risk over a lifetime.

References:

1. Walter Coke Residential Sampling Report
2. EPA Data Evaluation Report
3. EPA Cleanup Level Correspondence

DRAFT



0.1 0.05 0 Miles

Date Created: April, 2011
GEO Section, EPA R4

Map Name:
WalterCoke BaP5 Cleanup.mxd

Map Author:
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-DRAFT-
This map has not been submitted to the EPA peer review process

School Cleanup



Slated for Cleanup

- ✓ Hudson K-8 Former and New School
- ✓ Opportunity School at Riggins

Former Carver High School
(City of B'ham)

No Cleanup Required

Calloway Head
Start School
(Leased to JCCEO)

Progress of School Cleanup (Soil removal and replacement) : Hudson K-8 and Riggins Schools



Next Steps – RCRA Corrective Action

- Walter Coke will release school cleanup reports summer 2011
- Walter Coke will clean up residential properties in 2011
 - Please visit the Walter Coke table for more information
 - Draft cleanup plan work plan is being prepared for review by EPA and the public
- EPA and Walter Coke are developing a new legal document for additional residential sampling and cleanup. Public comments will be solicited.



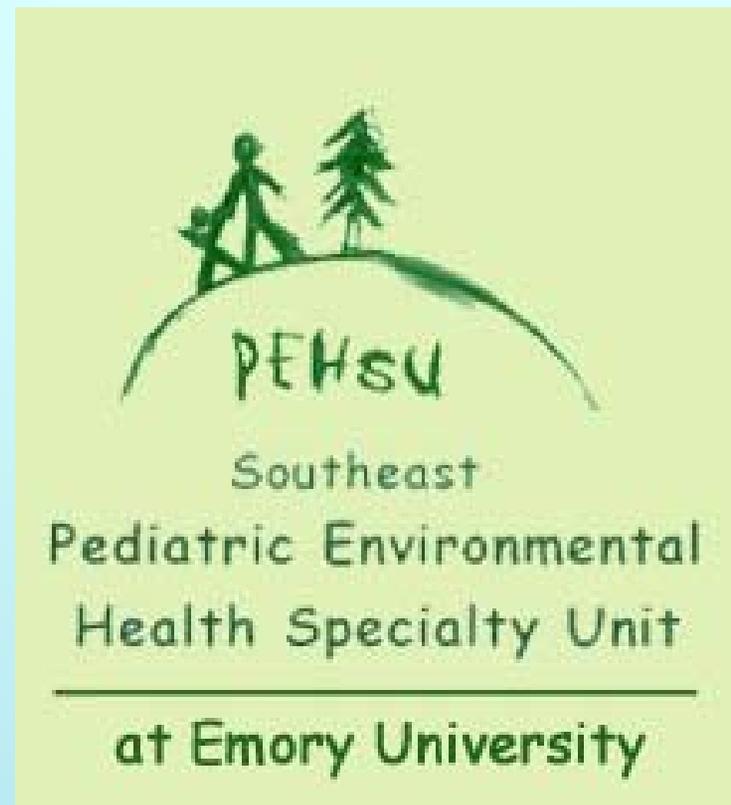
Dana Robison, MPH



Next Steps – Health Issues

- ▶ ATSDR is preparing a “Health Consultation” for the community
- ▶ ATSDR will provide formal advice on gardening

Robert J. Geller, MD



Next Steps – Children’s Health

- ▶ The Southeast Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU) at Emory University will be [a resource on children’s health issues.](#) Organization is funded under an agreement with EPA and ATSDR.



Next Steps – Community Engagement

- ▶ Continue meaningful engagement; allow for public comment periods
- ▶ Support Walter Coke’s “Community Advisory Panel (CAP)” as needed; meeting on monthly basis.
- ▶ Foster collaboration with other Agencies/resources to assist community.
- ▶ Provide independent educational/technical assistance via an EPA–sponsored program (called TASC, Technical Assistance Services for Communities); workshop forthcoming.



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For more information, be sure to visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/region4/foiapgs/readingroom/index.htm>

Questions and Answers

