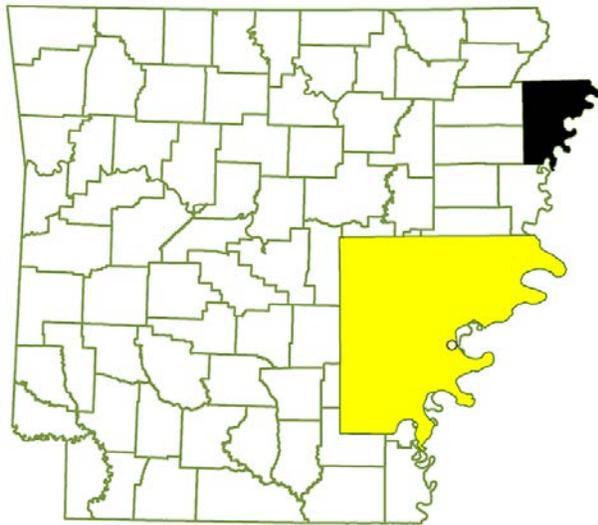


# ARKANSAS WASTE-TO-ENERGY WAREHOUSE SITE

## STATE PRIORITY LIST SITE OSCEOLA, ARKANSAS



ADEQ  
5301 Northshore Drive  
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72118



EPA RCRA ID No: ARD982286957  
EPA CERCLA ID No: ARD982286957  
AFIN: 47-00003  
County: Mississippi  
Arkansas Senate District: 15  
Arkansas House District: 55  
US Congressional District: 1

### **Current Status**

The Parsons Warehouse site was one of two warehouses in which medical, industrial, and hazardous wastes had been improperly stored by a former operator of the Arkansas Municipal Waste-to-Energy (AMWE) facility. The AMWE, which leased a nearby municipal incinerator, had also leased the Parsons Warehouse and was using it to improperly store wastes intended to be burned at the incinerator. The AMWE leased the nearby E.R. Moore Building for the same purposes, and many subsequent stabilization and waste removal activities involved both warehouses as well as the incinerator facility itself.

Following the emergency removal of a large quantity of medical and hazardous wastes in 2003, the remaining waste was characterized and disposed of in phases through the coordinated efforts of the ADEQ, the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), EPA Region 6, and a number of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs). The EPA Region 6, which became the lead authority for the site in 2004, characterized, containerized, and staged the remaining waste in the warehouse until the most significant PRP completed removal of the majority of the containers in 2006. From June 2006 until June 2012, approximately 1,000 containers of hazardous waste remained on pallets in the warehouse until negotiations with the remaining PRPs were completed and the containers were removed.

Upon completion of the final hazardous waste container removal action in June 2012, the EPA contractor removed as much debris and trash as possible from the warehouse and swept the floors. The EPA contractor subsequently collected soil samples in accessible areas outside the warehouse.

As of July 2012, the ADEQ has received the final report from the EPA and the results of exterior soil sampling. The warehouse is in poor condition and structurally unsound. The City of Osceola, the property owner, has been notified of all actions and conditions at the site. No further actions have been identified at this time. The site has been recommended for removal from the SPL.

## **State Priority List History**

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The Arkansas Remedial Action Trust Fund Act (A.C.A. 778-7-501 et seq.), or RATFA, provides authority and funding for identifying, investigating, and remediating hazardous substance sites throughout the State. The RATFA Hazardous Substances State Priority List (SPL) identifies those hazardous substance sites eligible for State-funded investigation and remedial actions, if necessary, on a case-by-case basis; it is not an inclusive site inventory or historical list. All three AMWE facilities, including the Parsons Warehouse, were placed on the SPL in 2005 due to ongoing cleanup associated with the former AMWE operations. The site has been recommended for removal from the SPL.

## **Site Description**

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**Location:** The 2.5-acre site is located within the city limits of Osceola, Arkansas on the south side town. The geographic coordinates are 35° 41' 39.68" north latitude and 89° 58' 14.18" west longitude. Street address: 420 West Parsons Drive.

**Population:** Osceola has an estimated 9,175 residents.

**Setting:** The Parsons Warehouse is situated in an area zoned as light industrial. The approximately 50,000-square-foot structure has a concrete floor and several loading dock areas along its southern exterior. It is bounded by an inactive warehouse facility to the north, Parsons Drive to the south, Ohlendorf Road to the west, and a scrap metal recycler to the east. Land use within .25 miles of the site includes various commercial businesses, agricultural land, residences, a small apartment complex and a daycare center. A residential subdivision is within .5 mile to the north and east of the site.

**Hydrology:** The site lies at an elevation of approximately 240 feet above mean sea level and the topographical slope is less than 1 percent. Drainage for the entire area is provided by a series of man-made drainage systems. A significant portion of the ground covering is a combination of concrete and asphalt; no surface water impoundments or other features are present. Stormwater runoff flows into the drainage ditches along the site; this drainage system eventually discharges into the Mississippi River approximately 1 mile to the east. The site is not located in the 100-year flood plain.

Aerial Photo: AMWE Facilities - Osceola, Arkansas



Site Photo: Parsons Warehouse – Site Discovery in March 2003



Site Photo: Parsons Warehouse – Drums Labeled and Ready for Disposal in June 2006





## **Waste and Volumes**

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ADEQ began an investigation of the AMWE facilities in 2003 in response to local citizen complaints. During its investigation, ADEQ discovered an estimated 20,000 drums improperly stored at the warehouse. Some drums were leaking and in extremely poor condition and numerous spills were observed on the warehouse floor. Hazard categorization tests on a portion of the drums indicated that several displayed hazardous characteristics such as flammability, ignitability, and corrosivity. Large quantities of medical waste were also stored at the warehouse, which was in degraded condition.

ADEQ, the ADH, local officials, and PRPs coordinated to remove almost all of the medical waste and large quantities of the materials from the warehouse. ADEQ coordinated the identification, characterization, and removal of approximately 10,000 drums prior to requesting the EPA Region 6 for assistance in addressing the potential threats posed by the estimated 10,000 drums still remaining at the warehouse.

The EPA Region 6 started stabilization activities at the warehouse in June 2004, including classifying wastes into hazard categories and segregating similar materials; securing leaking or damaged drums; sampling for airborne biological hazards; and structural analysis of the warehouse. The EPA signed an Administrative Order with PCI, the most significant PRP, in August 2004; a work plan for remaining removal actions and ultimate appropriate disposal of wastes was developed, and PCI completed their removal action by June 2006.

An estimated 1,000 containers were staged within the warehouse starting in June 2006 while the EPA negotiated with other PRPs to arrange for disposal. Of the approximately 40 PRPs, four or five had between 20 to 200 drums of waste to address; the other PRPs had less than 20 drums. Starting in March 2010, the EPA worked with the Department of Justice to enforce the removal of all remaining containers. The final removal was completed in June 2012.

## **Health Considerations**

The EPA Region 6 sampled and classified approximately 4,000 drums at the warehouse in 2004. Results of tests for biological hazards showed no elevated risks for persons on or off site following proper containerization, cleanup of spills and uncontrolled medical wastes, and securing all materials within the warehouse. These actions eliminated the threat or potential threat of release of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants at the site. Following the removal of the approximately 1,000 remaining containers in June 2012, the EPA cleared debris from the warehouse, swept the floors, and collected soil samples from the warehouse exterior. The samples showed no potential threat to human health and the environment. The site has been recommended for removal from the SPL.

## **ADEQ and EPA Response Actions**

The following chronology lists milestones and provides brief activity descriptions:

- Complaint Investigation, March 2003 – Site inspection in response to complaint that AMWE was receiving flammable materials for incineration and using a nearby warehouse for storage. Estimated 20,000 waste containers in storage in the warehouse.
- Waste Sampling and Profiling, March and April 2003 – Sampled containers and began waste categorization/segregation.
- Facilities and PRP Search, June 2003 – EPA Region 6 Criminal Investigation Division executed search warrant for all AMWE facilities; ADEQ began PRP search and contact, made arrangements for PRPs within State of Arkansas to remove their waste and dispose properly. ADEQ and ADH continued contacting PRPs and arranging additional removals.
- Assistance Request, June 2004 – ADEQ requested the assistance of the EPA Region 6 Emergency Response Branch due to volume of substances remaining at the site, the poor condition of both containers and building, and proximity of a daycare facility and public accessibility.
- Site Visit, June 2006 – ADEQ representative visited the warehouse for follow up and verification of 2004-2005 removal actions.
- Site Visit, June 2007 – ADEQ representative visited the warehouse to verify general building integrity and security, overall condition of property.
- Site Visit, May 2010 – ADEQ representative visited the warehouse to verify general building integrity and security, overall condition of property.
- Staged Container Removal, June 2012 – EPA oversaw removal of remaining 1,000 containers of industrial waste stored in warehouse since June 2006.
- Post cleanup soil sampling, June 2012 – EPA collected soil samples from warehouse exterior.

## **ADEQ Anticipated Future Activities**

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EPA Region 6 became the lead agency for the site in June 2004. The final report from the EPA has been reviewed; no future activities have been identified as of June 2013. The site has been recommended for removal from the SPL.

## **Site Contacts**

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