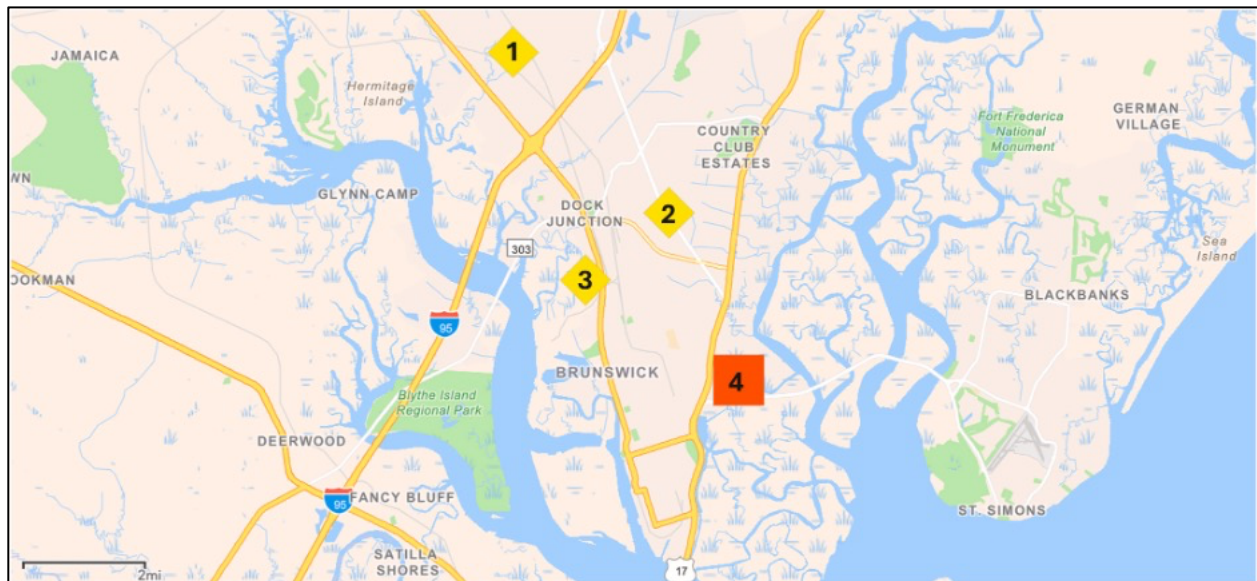


Data Nuggets - Toxic Legacy

Superfund Site Map and Descriptions

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), otherwise known as Superfund, gives the government authority to identify, manage, and clean up abandoned or uncontrolled hazardous-waste sites. The government is responsible for the Superfund process by determining who is responsible for clean-up or cleaning up the site if a responsible party cannot be identified. In Georgia, these government agencies include the Georgia Environmental Protection Division and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Response Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) gives the EPA the jurisdiction to control hazardous waste “from cradle to grave.” In essence, RCRA is the law that manages potentially hazardous waste from its creation to its disposal.

The four federally managed Superfund Sites in Glynn County, GA are detailed below:



Site 1: Brunswick Wood Preserving: From 1958 until 1991, this was a facility in Glynn County that helped preserve wood for a variety of uses. Wood is often preserved to protect it from fungus, pests, and other things that break it down, like humidity and changing temperatures. At this site, three main chemicals were used to preserve wood: creosote, pentachlorophenol (PCP), and chromated copper arsenate (CCA). These chemicals were released into the environment and contaminated the area. These toxic chemicals can cause health problems in humans, including cancer.

- EPA Superfund website:

<https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csinfo.cfm?id=0405622>

Site 2: Hercules 009 Landfill: The Hercules 009 Landfill is a 16.5-acre area in Glynn County. For 32 years, from 1948-1980, Hercules discharged waste into part of this area. As of 1980, Hercules could no longer discharge waste here due to high amounts of contamination. Toxaphene and other chemicals were found in the soil, groundwater, and surface water surrounding the landfill, threatening nearby waterways and communities. To protect people living in these communities, homes and a church were connected to city water, and their wells were closed off to prevent contaminated water from being used. Part of the site is now a car dealership, and the site is routinely monitored to protect people and the environment.

- EPA Superfund website:

<https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0401699>

Site 3: LCP Chemicals: At 813 acres, this is the largest Superfund site in Glynn County. That's almost 50 times the size of the Hercules Landfill site (see below). Because this area is so large, and is impacted by many different contaminants of concern, it is divided into multiple areas for clean-up. Each area is in a different stage of the Superfund clean-up process. This industrial area was active from the 1920's to 1994, almost 75 years. Many different industries, including an oil refinery, a paint manufacturing company, a power plant, and a chlor-alkali plant, caused contamination at the site. A chlor-alkali plant is a factory where saltwater (also called brine) is separated into the basic ingredients needed to make soap, bleach, and other cleaning products. Some chemicals of concern at this site include PCBs, PAHs, mercury, lead, and dioxin, which can all be harmful to human health.

Polychlorinated biphenyls, called PCBs, are manmade chemicals that consist of carbon, hydrogen, chlorine. PCBs were banned in the United States in 1979 due to their potential health effects, but were used in hundreds of industrial processes before 1979. The LCP Chemicals plant used a mixture of PCBs known as Aroclor 1268. Aroclor 1268 is 68% chlorine atoms! Scientists can measure PCB-206, which is the largest component in Aroclor 1268.

- EPA Superfund website:

<https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0401634>

Site 4: Terry Creek/Hercules Outfall: The Hercules Company was one of the major industries in Glynn County. They produced products from pine trees that helped waterproof wooden boats, along with other purposes. These products, like pine oil, rosin, and turpentine, are called Naval Stores. During the World Wars, Hercules created ammunition to help in the war efforts. After the wars, Hercules started making a chemical pesticide to fight insects throughout the south. The chemical was called Toxaphene, and it was produced from 1948-1980. Until 1972, Hercules LLC was discharging wastewater into Dupree Creek, which leads into Terry Creek, causing pollution in nearby waterways, marshes, soils, and surrounding communities.

- EPA Superfund website:

<https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0404439>