



Department of
**Environment &
Conservation**

NPL Site Updates

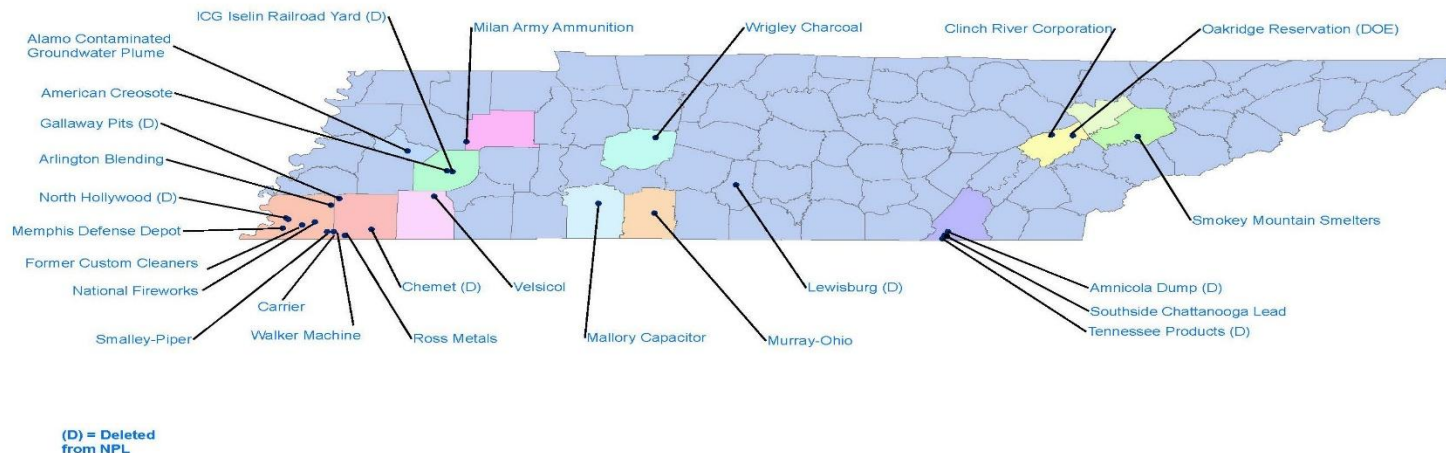
October 7, 2026

CERCLA (NPL) Sites in Tennessee

National Priority List (NPL) sites are some of the most polluted sites in the country. For sites where there is no viable responsible party, EPA may be required to spend federal dollars to perform the cleanup.



CERCLA (NPL) Sites in Tennessee Continued



There are currently 19 active NPL sites in Tennessee with eight of these sites federally funded. Currently there are 10 Superfund State Contracts (SSCs) at nine sites:

- Alamo Contaminated Groundwater
- Former Custom Cleaners
- Murray Ohio Dump
- Ross Metals
- Smalley-Piper
- Smokey Mountain Smelters
- Southside Chattanooga Lead Site
- Velsicol Hardeman County Landfill (2 SSCs)
- Walker Machine Products

Southside Chattanooga Lead Site



- As of June 2026, EPA has sampled 4,172 properties and cleaned up 1,221. Estimated cleanup costs exceed \$130 million. We anticipate the costs will increase.
- EPA estimated Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding will cover at least \$53.8 million. This puts the state's 10% cost share at about \$7.8 million. So far, the state has paid about \$1.85 million.
- TDEC has screened 276 properties outside the NPL boundary and found lead above EPA's cleanup level (360 parts per million or ppm) at 129 properties.
- TDEC has referred 40 properties to EPA's Emergency Response and Removal Branch for further assessment because lead levels exceeded the removal management level (600 ppm).

Smokey Mountain Smelters Site (Knoxville)



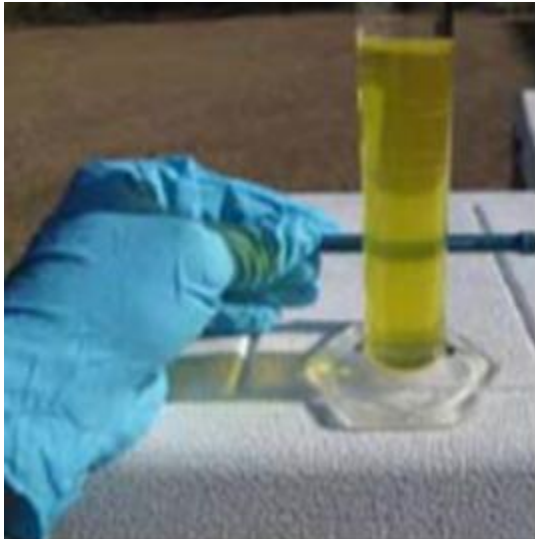
- The 13-acre Smokey Mountain Smelters Site operated as a fertilizer and agricultural chemical manufacturer from the 1920s to the 1960s. The facility also operated a secondary aluminum smelter.
- EPA completed the cleanup by excavating soil and installing a cap on top of a consolidated waste area.
- Approximately 11,000 gallons of a treatment solution were injected into shallow groundwater to treat contaminants.
- BIL funding provided an estimated \$2.6 million to accelerate site work.
- TDEC entered into an agreement with EPA to repair erosion damage to the landfill. The remedy was declared operational and functional in July 2026.



Smalley Piper Site (Collierville)



- Hexavalent chromium released from the Smalley Piper Site polluted Collierville's water supply.
- EPA operated a groundwater recovery and treatment system from December 2015 until it was shut down in April 2026; decommissioning finished in June 2026.
- The current SSC estimates source-area treatment costs at about \$22.4 million.
- EPA plans to use roughly \$1.24 million in BIL funding for site cleanup, making the state's cost share about \$2.1 million. The state has paid about \$1.8 million so far.
- Pilot studies for off-site groundwater and remaining on-site in-situ treatment are ongoing. Any additional state cost share will be included in a future amended SSC.



Former Custom Cleaners Site (Memphis)



- Dry cleaning operations occurred at the Former Custom Cleaners Site from the 1950s to mid-1990s.
- Site-related contamination impacted the Cockfield and Memphis Sand aquifers.
- The interim action (thermal desorption) treated soil to a depth of about 45-50 feet below ground surface.
- A Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study will address the remaining soil contamination below 50 feet.
- EPA anticipated funding the interim action (estimated to be over \$3.7 million) with BIL funds. Any future remedial action cost share needs will be included in an amended SSC.
- EPA completed a groundwater bioremediation pilot study and is evaluating the results.



Velsicol Hardeman County Landfill

- Between 1964 and 1973, an estimated 130,000–300,000 drums containing pesticide waste and VOCs, including carbon tetrachloride, were buried in trenches across 24 acres.
- EPA has begun the remedy for the Northern Disposal Area. Soil vapor extraction wells are installed, and the treatment facility is under construction.
- Performance objectives are estimated to be achieved in about 12 years.
- EPA estimated funding \$40 million of the \$70 million remedy at the site through BIL funds. The state's cost share is estimated to be \$3 million with about \$2.8 million paid to date. This estimate applies to the Soil Vapor Extraction Remedial Action SSC only.

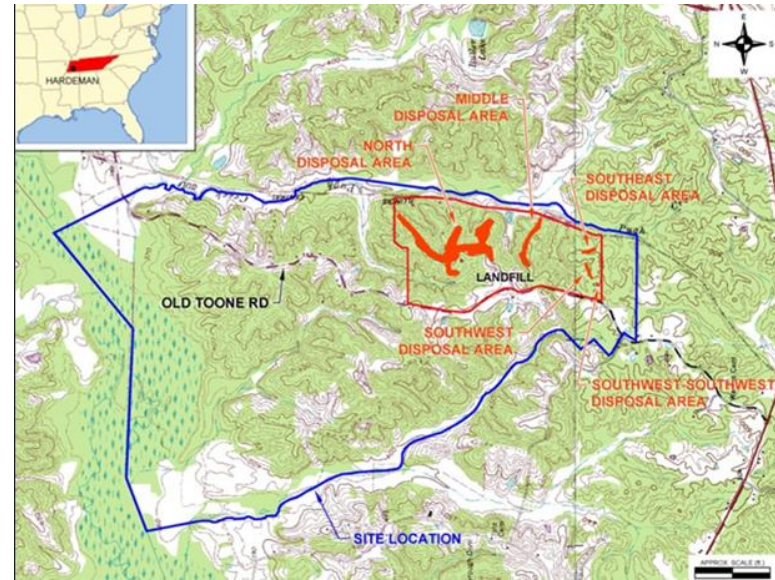


Photo courtesy of Jason Morat

State Appropriations and NPL SSC Matches

State Appropriations: \$13,000,000

- Payments through October 2025: \$3,184,135.72
- Balance: \$9,815,864.28

State Maximum Match According to Current SSCs

- \$19,295,550.70

Current Balance of State Match

- \$12,341,003.18