Mercury information for St. John/St. James parishes (Noranda Alumina)

DEQ's Mobile Air Monitoring Laboratory (MAML) made two unannounced visits to the Noranda Alumina site in St. James/St. John parishes to record ambient air data for mercury and other constituents of concern.

The results of the first visit, conducted March 16-17, are detailed in a 17-page report. The Louisiana Environmental Regulatory Code Title 33, Part III, lists the Louisiana ambient air quality standard for mercury (and mercury compounds), as an 8 hour average of 1.19 µg/m^3. The highest "rolling" 8-hour average of mercury vapor detected was 0.0051 µg/m^3. The report includes maps, data charts and a complete explanation of the findings.

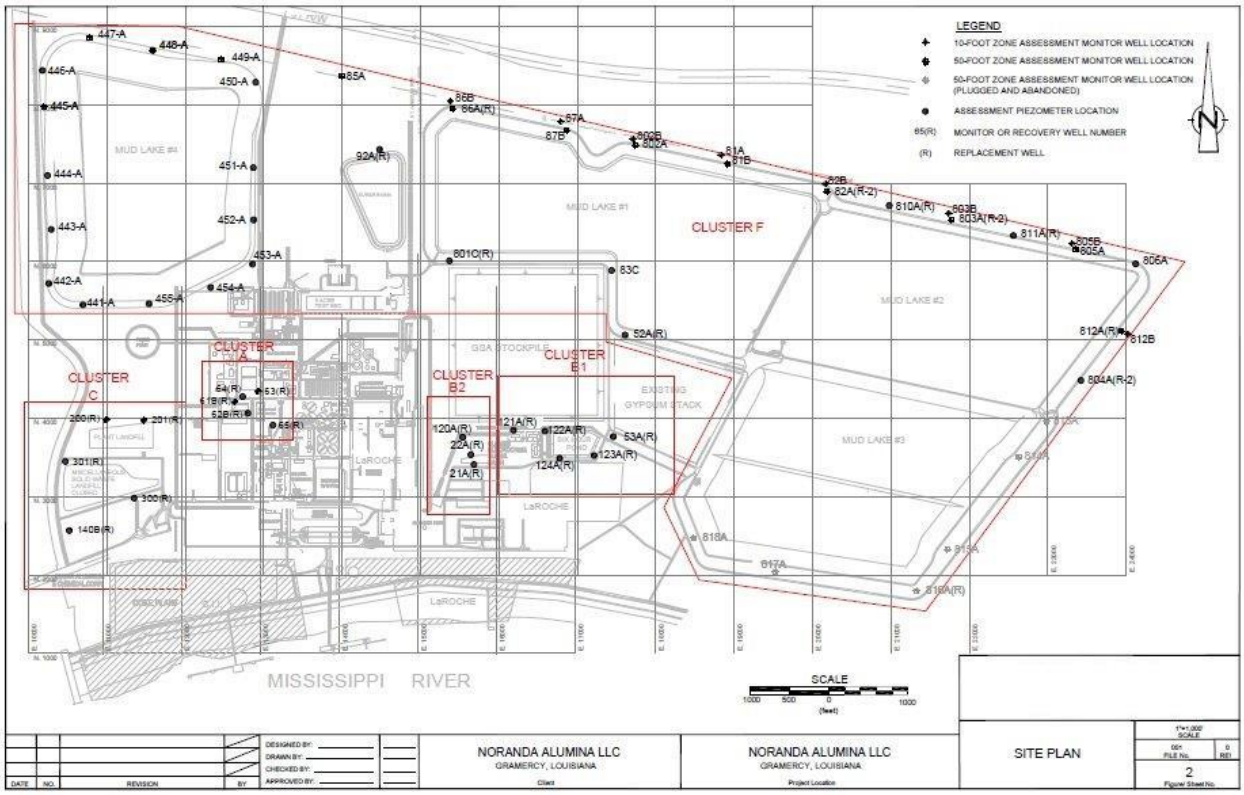
Because the first visit was cut short by mechanical problems, DEQ conducted a second visit May 18-22. Data was gathered in three locations (in order to stay downwind of the facility): near the corner of La. 641 and La. 3213 in St. James Parish; 5353 W. Airline Highway in Gramercy; and at Wallace in St. John the Baptist Parish.

Results of the second monitoring project are compiled in a 22-page report. The data gathered did not indicate any areas of concern. The highest 8-hour average for mercury vapor detected was 0.0034 µg/m^3.

Full information on the Noranda monitoring is available for public view on DEQ's website under the Electronic Data Management System (EDMS) button at http://edms.deq.louisiana.gov/app/doc/querydef.aspx. Visitors need to type the agency interest number (AI) for Noranda, 1388, into the dialog box and click "run." Results will display a list of documents with descriptions including permits, the MAML sampling plan, monitoring results, actions against the company (if any) and other pertinent reports and correspondence. Select the desired report and the document will be displayed.

Groundwater monitoring

Noranda Alumina's permit spells out requirements for groundwater monitoring for several parameters including mercury. Monitoring well locations are shown on this schematic:


LEGEND
10-FOOT ZONE ASSESSMENT MONITOR WELL LOCATION
50-FOOT ZONE ASSESSMENT MONITOR WELL LOCATION
50-FOOT ZONE ASSESSMENT MONITOR WELL LOCATION (PLUGGED AND ABANDONED)
ASSESSMENT PIEZOMETER LOCATION
65(R) MONITOR OR RECOVERY WELL NUMBER
(R) REPLACEMENT WELL
CLUSTER A
CLUSTER B1
CLUSTER B2
CLUSTER C
CLUSTER F
MUD LAKE #1
MUD LAKE #2
MUD LAKE #3
MUD LAKE #4
GSA STOCKPILE
EXISTING GYPSUM STACK
LaROCHE
MISSISSIPPI RIVER
SCALE
1000 500 0 1000
(feet)
NORANDA ALUMINA LLC
GRAMERCY, LOUISIANA
Client
NORANDA ALUMINA LLC
GRAMERCY, LOUISIANA
Project Location
SITE PLAN
1"=1,000' SCALE
001 FILE No.
0 REV.
2 Figure/ Sheet No.
DESIGNED BY:
DRAWN BY:
CHECKED BY:
APPROVED BY:
DATE NO. REVISION BY

Analytical results for Mercury are shown in this chart:

NORANDA ALUMINA
GROUNDWATER MERCURY CONCENTRATIONS
(mg/L)

10-FOOT ZONE WELLS												
DATE	**61BR**	**200R**	**63R**	**201R**	**86B**	**87B**	**802B**	**81B**	**82B**	**803B**	**805B**	**812B**
07/27/11	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002
11/22/11	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002
06/27/12	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002
12/04/12	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002
06/20/13	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002
12/17/13	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002
06/20/13	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002
12/17/13	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	**0.0002**	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002
06/17/14	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	**0.00033**	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002
12/03/14	<0.0002	**0.0002**	<0.0002	**0.0024**	**0.00049**	**0.00048**	**0.00083**	**0.00063**	**0.0030**	<0.0002	<0.0002	**0.00026**

50-FOOT ZONE WELLS												
DATE	**86AR**	**802AR**	**82AR2**	**803AR2**	**805A**	**812AR**	**445A**	**447A**	**449A**	**85A**	**87A**	**81A**
07/27/11	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002
11/22/11	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002
06/27/12	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002
12/04/12	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002
06/20/13	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002
12/17/13	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002
06/20/13	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002
12/17/13	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002
06/17/14	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002
12/03/14	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	**0.00070**	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002