

# **Georgia Department of Natural Resources**

2 Martin Luther King Jr., Dr., Suite 1152 East Tower, Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Chris Clark, Commissioner

Carol A. Couch, Ph.D., Director

Environmental Protection Division

(404) 656-4713

**For Immediate Release**

**July 9, 2009**

## **Federal Recovery Money Designated For Hazardous Waste Site Cleanup in Fort Valley**

The central Georgia city of Fort Valley has been recognized for its efforts in assuring the cleanup of contaminated property in and around a former pesticide factory and has learned the project will receive federal recovery money to help pay for the work.

“We applaud the people of Fort Valley, in particular the Woolfolk Alliance, for their hard work and commitment to this project,” said Georgia EPD Director Carol A. Couch. “The Alliance has been invaluable in communicating information from government regulatory agencies to ensure the community is involved and is providing input on remediation activities at the site.” The Alliance consists of local citizens and representatives from federal, state and local agencies.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the Woolfolk site will receive \$1.8 million in new funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The money will be used to help speed the cleanup and will boost the local economy by making the site suitable for redevelopment earlier than expected.

To date, more than \$28.5 million in federal money has been spent on the Woolfolk cleanup and the State of Georgia is expected to spend well over \$3 million by the end of EPA’s remediation at the site.

Fort Valley also was awarded the EPA Region 4 Excellence in Site Reuse Award for redevelopment activities at the Troutman House, which is a formerly contaminated antebellum farmhouse and at the new Thomas Public Library. The city also has discussed redevelopment options that include a new downtown commercial district and a community park.

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) first investigated the Woolfolk Chemical site in the early 1980s. The factory produced and packaged insecticides, herbicides and pesticides. Because of extensive chemical contamination of soil and groundwater, the site was designated a Superfund site and added to the National Priorities List (NPL) in 1990.

News Media Contact: Kevin Chambers 404-651-7970

