



Rick Scott
Governor

April 04, 2011

Honorable Mayor Lowe and City Commissioners

C/O Russ Blackburn, City Manager
Fred Murry, Assistant City Manager

Re: Alachua County Health Department Kopper's Hazardous Waste Site Update

The Alachua County Health Department (ACHD) would like to take this opportunity to update you on current initiatives the ACHD and the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) are currently engaged in associated with the Kopper's Hazardous Waste Site.

- In response to the health concerns of area residents, the Alachua County Health Department and Florida Department of Health (DOH) are participating in a workgroup with other agencies, community leaders, and the responsible party. The workgroup is developing a plan to test dust in the Stephen Foster Neighborhood homes. In developing a plan, the workgroup is also reviewing preliminary test results from the Caldwell Practice. Development of a plan, however, is complicated and is taking time. Because there are no regulatory standards for dioxins in indoor dust, the workgroup is having to estimate exposures and develop concentration guidelines. None the less, the workgroup hopes to finish their plan this summer, present it to EPA, and request EPA/the responsible party implement it.
- Florida DOH is also reviewing area cancers rates and a report will be available this spring.
- Florida DOH is evaluating Springstead/Hogtown creek sediments and the September 2010 Stephen Foster surface soil test results. They expect separate reports on sediment and soil this summer.
- While the ACHD and Florida DOH are not conducting a comprehensive door-to-door health survey at this time, we have provided background information and offered local assistance to the University of Florida and the City of Gainesville for their consideration.

The ACHD and Florida DOH are committed to working with the citizens of Alachua County to better understand issues related to the Koppers Site. We will continue to address health issues associated with the site and provide information to the community as it becomes available. Links to the Stephen Foster Updates and the FDOH Health Consultations can be found at the Alachua County Health Department's Internet Site; <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/chdalachua/>

Sincerely,

Anthony Dennis
Environmental Health Director
Alachua County Health Department
Florida Department of Health

Cc: Jean Munden, Administrator, Alachua County Health Department, Florida Department of Health
Paul Myers, Assistant Director, Alachua County Health Department, Florida Department of Health