

FACT SHEET

Springstead and Hogtown Creeks Sediment Sampling

What:

Cabot Corporation will collect sediment samples from Springstead and Hogtown Creeks to update sediment quality data and assess current creek conditions. The planned work will be carried out by Cabot's contractor Weston Solutions, Inc. following a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) approved work plan.

Why:

Cabot removed isolated tar deposits from Springstead and Hogtown Creeks in 2011. The USEPA and FDEP requested the sampling be done to update the understanding of current Creek conditions.

Where:

The samples will be collected at approximately 500 ft. intervals beginning at the intersection of Hogtown Creek and NW 29th Road and ending at the North Main Street Terrace Ditch near the intersection of North Main Street and NE 31st Ave., adjacent to the Cabot Carbon/Koppers Superfund Site. The sample locations are shown on the attached Figure 1.

When:

The sediment sampling plan has been reviewed, commented on and approved by the USEPA, FDEP, Alachua County Environmental Protection Department (ACEPD) and the City of Gainesville. It is expected that the sampling and assessment work will be conducted in May of 2016. The sampling is expected to take approximately 2 weeks to complete.

Sediment Sampling Plan Elements:

- Collect sediment samples for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and total organic carbon (TOC) analyses at approximately 500 ft. intervals beginning at the intersection of Hogtown Creek and NW 29th Road and ending at the North Main Street Terrace Ditch, adjacent to the Cabot Carbon/Koppers Superfund Site.
- Probe the sediment across the stream bed at each sampling location to determine if visible tar is present at the sampling locations.
- Determine the condition of the remaining tar deposits that were left in place due to access issues and creek bank stability issues.
- Collect background samples for PAH and TOC analyses from Hogtown and Springstead Creeks upstream of the portions of the creeks that may have been affected by the Cabot Carbon/Koppers Superfund Site.
- Develop an updated human health and ecological risk assessment on the creek sediments using the new sediment data.
- Publish a report documenting the results of the evaluation.

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Background

- Cabot operated a pine tar plant that distilled pine oil and tar from pine trees into a variety of products. Cabot's plant operations ceased in 1966 and the property was sold to a local developer.
- After Cabot sold the facility, the property was redeveloped, during which time some of the contents of the pine processing lagoons were bulldozed and released.
- Some of the released pine tar entered Springstead and Hogtown Creeks. Accordingly, the FDEP ordered the developer to clean up the release.
- Starting in the 1990s, Cabot installed and continues to maintain a multimillion dollar, 2,000 foot long groundwater interceptor trench along North Main Street to address any pine tar related impacts to the groundwater. Studies confirm that this remedial system is working effectively.
- Federal, state and local environmental agencies, among others have previously examined potential impacts to the creek. In 2008 and 2009, the ACEPD conducted comprehensive investigations and identified residual pine tar in 17 localized areas, most were 18–24 inches below the creek bed.
- Cabot cleaned-up 13 tar deposits from Springstead and Hogtown Creeks in 2011 by excavating approximately 140 cubic yards of tar impacted sediments and sending that material off-site for proper disposal. Some deposits were not excavated due to certain property owners refusing to grant access or creek bank stability issues.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact:

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