



City of Gainesville

Craig Lowe, Mayor

October 18, 2010

Thomas Frieden, M.D., M.P.H., Administrator
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30333

Re: Request for Assistance to Address Health Related Concerns and Issues related to the Cabot-Koppers Superfund Site in Gainesville, Florida

Dear Dr. Frieden,

As the Mayor of the City of Gainesville, I am writing to request your assistance in addressing health concerns raised by residents living near the Cabot-Koppers Superfund Site in Gainesville, Florida. This site has been on the National Priorities list since 1984, and the contamination in the soils and groundwater on the site have yet to be remediated by USEPA Region 4. A Proposed Plan for clean-up of the Koppers portion of this Superfund site was released by the USEPA in July of this year, and a Record of Decision is expected in the fall of this year. Alachua County and the City of Gainesville have submitted comments to the USEPA on the Proposed Plan recommending improvements to make the plan acceptable to the community and raising concern about the need to assess the impact of offsite contamination on resident's health.

Recent surface soil sampling in the residential neighborhood to the west of the Koppers site has resulted in detections of dioxins (TCDD toxic equivalents) at soil concentrations above the default State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection Residential Soil Cleanup Target Level (SCTL). This finding resulted in a door-to door effort by the Alachua County Health Department noticing affected residents of the risk to children's health via incidental soil ingestion in the area with the highest soil concentrations near the western boundary of the Koppers site. The Alachua County Health Department/Florida Department of Health is currently engaged in a cancer inquiry of the impacted neighborhood. The Alachua County Health Department/Florida Department of Health has also performed potable water tests to address primary routes of exposure.

At public meetings to discuss the USEPA's clean-up plans for the Koppers site, the City Commission has received requests from concerned residents in the neighborhood adjacent to the Koppers site for a door-to door comprehensive health study to ascertain potential exposure and adverse health impacts that may be associated with contaminants from the site. These residents believe that this is an increased incidence of disease and other health issues related to contamination from the Koppers site. The requested comprehensive health study is beyond the current capabilities of local and state health officials.

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The Gainesville City Commission shares the concerns of the residents and requests CDC's assistance to address and evaluate these citizen concerns. In particular, we are requesting that the CDC consider making resources available to conduct and manage a health study to investigate these potential site impacts.

Your serious consideration of this request to assist in addressing our citizens concerns will be greatly appreciated. If you have questions or would like to receive more information about this request, please contact Assistant City Manager Fred Murry at (352) 334-5010, or Alachua County Health Department Environmental Health Director Anthony Dennis, at (352) 334-7931.

Sincerely,



Craig Lowe
Mayor

xc: City of Gainesville Commission
Russ Blackburn, City Manager
Marion Radson, City Attorney
Bob Hunzinger, General Manager for Utilities
Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
Randall H. Reid, County Manager
Dave Wagner, County Attorney
Fred Murry, Assistant City Manager
Rick Hutton, Gainesville Regional Utilities
Chris Bird, Environmental Protection Director
Dr. John Mousa, Pollution Prevention Manager
Anthony Dennis, Environmental Health Director
Paul Myers, Alachua County Health Department
Randy Merchant, Florida Department of Health
Kelsey Helton, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Scott Miller, Remedial Project Manager, USEPA Region 4
Senator Bill Nelson
Congressman Cliff Stearns
Congresswoman Corrine Brown