

Fact Sheet

Soil Gas Investigation at the Northside Shopping Center Gainesville, Florida

Background

Cabot Corporation (Cabot) is planning to conduct a soil gas investigation at the Northside Shopping Center located at the corner of N. Main Street and NE 23rd Avenue in Gainesville, Florida. This investigation is being performed at the request of the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) as part of ongoing studies and environmental monitoring associated with the Cabot Carbon/Koppers Superfund site.

Recent USEPA policy requires that such evaluations be conducted at Superfund sites, including those with older remedy decisions, such as the Cabot portion of the site, where the remedial approach was selected and implemented about twenty years ago. The Northside Shopping Center was built on a portion of the former Cabot facility, which was historically used to distill pine oil and pine tar from pine trees. As a result, soil and groundwater data from locations beneath the building or nearby locations indicate the presence of relatively low levels of volatile organic compounds. While these levels are not cause for concern, USEPA policy requires that soil gas sampling be conducted to confirm that vapor concentrations in the subsurface are less than protective levels.

Scope of the Assessment

The investigation will include soil gas sampling from a dozen exterior locations surrounding the shopping center buildings. The attached diagram (Figure 1) shows the approximate locations of the proposed sampling points. At each soil gas sampling point, a hollow steel rod (about 1 inch in diameter) will be advanced into the subsurface to a depth of about 3 to 5 feet below ground surface. Soil gas will be collected through the hollow rod into air sampling canisters, which will then be sent to a certified laboratory for analysis. Following sample collection, the steel rod will be removed and the pavement/asphalt will be restored. The results of the soil gas sampling will help determine whether or not additional assessment is needed.

The investigation work plan has been reviewed and approved by the USEPA with input from the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department (ACEPD) and the City of Gainesville. A link to the work plan can be found on the online document library of the ACEPD website at the following location: <http://www.alachuacounty.us/cabotkoppers>.

Property Access

Cabot will be seeking permission from the property owners and store operators to collect soil gas samples in the vicinity of the buildings. It is expected that the sampling work will be conducted over two to three days in the summer of 2012. A best-faith effort will be made to minimize inconvenience to the stores and property owners.

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

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Figure 1 – Proposed Soil Gas Sampling Locations

