





INTER-OFFICE MEMO

DATE: May 9, 2012

TO: Members of the City Commission

VIA: Russ Blackburn, City Manager 

FROM: Fred Murry, Assistant City Manager 

SUBJECT: Cabot-Koppers Superfund Site Concerns from Residents

At the City Commission meeting on February 16, 2012, three residents, Maria Parsons, Clara Horton and Sandra Watts-Kennedy expressed concerns about activities being conducted in the Stephen Foster neighborhood as part of the delineation process for the Cabot-Koppers Superfund Site. Specifically, residents raised concerns about three issues: (1) monitoring the soil sampling, testing and other work in the area; (2) the potential that the contractor is tampering with soil samples; and (3) the selection of the areas for the soil sampling. The concerns and responses are outlined below:

Concern #1: Who is monitoring the soil sampling and other work being conducted offsite and onsite for the Cabot-Koppers Superfund site?

Response #1: The local LIT has been sharing the responsibilities of monitoring the work in field. The LIT members (City of Gainesville, Gainesville Building Department, GRU, Florida Department of Health, ACEPD) have an open invitation to monitor work in the field in addition to monitoring performed by USEPA, FDEP and other agencies as deemed necessary.

Additionally, the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department (ACEPD) observed the latest round of soil sampling in the field. Based on their observation of the offsite soil sampling efforts near the Koppers site and the knowledge of the independent certified laboratories which will do the lab testing, ACEPD did not have any concerns about the integrity of the field sampling performed by AMEC. AMEC is a large, multinational organization contracted for the local outdoor soil sampling by Beazer East, Inc., the responsible party for the contamination at the Koppers site. ACEPD observed the sampling performed by AMEC from every location in the current round of offsite sampling to ensure compliance and proper quality control process. Based upon ACEPD's staff observation, the soil samplings were handled properly to protect the integrity of samples. In addition, Environmental Solutions, Inc., an independent Third Party contractor, was onsite and observed the sampling procedures for monitoring compliance.

Concern#2: The residents raised a concern that the soil sampling had been tampered with because the contractors carried top soil with them during this sampling period.

Response # 2: As a courtesy to the property owners, the top soil was only being used to back fill the holes produced in the residential yards after the test soil samples were properly taken, homogenized, labeled and put in the sampling containers.

Concern# 3: A concern was raised that the City of Gainesville and Alachua County staff limited the areas where the soil sampling would be taking place in the neighborhoods.

Response# 3: No recommendations were made by the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department or the City of Gainesville as to limiting the offsite neighborhood soil sampling to the north of the Koppers site. In fact, the County has repeatedly encouraged USEPA to perform additional soil sampling in the area north of the 33rd Avenue. However, both the USEPA and the FDEP have not agreed on the need for sampling in the area north of 33rd Avenue since the current available soil concentrations south of 33rd Avenue meet the State of Florida residential clean-up criteria and the delineation in this northerly direction is considered complete.

If you have any questions about any of the responses, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Cc: Sandra Watts-Kennedy
Clara Horton
Maria Parsons
Dr. John Mousa, ACEPD
Rick Hutton, GRU Supervising Utility Engineer
Chris Bird, ACEPD



City Manager's Service Request > Service Requests > 2/16/12 City Commission Staff Assignment - Clara Horton Citizen Comment

Service Requests: 2/16/12 City Commission Staff Assignment - Clara Horton Citizen Comment

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Customer	City Commission Staff Assignment
Service Request	2/16/12 City Commission Staff Assignment - Clara Horton Citizen Comment
Description	Citizen Comment - Ms. Clara Horton alleged that the contractor taking soil samples as an element of the Koppers remediation project is mixing sterile soil with soil samples. Please contact EPA to request a review of the practices used by the contractor. Please request that a response be provided by EPA to Ms. Horton.
Priority	(2) Normal
Status	Initiated
Service Representative	Harris, Helen J.
Assigned To Lead	Murry, Fredrick J.
Copied To	Sweigard, Kimberly A.
Due Date	3/2/2012
Comments	Harris, Helen J. (2/21/2012 3:45 PM):
Resolution Date	
Mark for Knowledge Base	No
Keywords	
Related Issues/Articles	
Resolution Time	0

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