

Community Update

June 2010

Cabot Carbon-Koppers Hazardous Waste Site

Florida DOH releases report on creek sediment and requests public comment

The central office of the Florida Department of Health (DOH), the DOH Alachua County Health Department (ACHD), and the US Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) announce the availability of a draft report on ditch and creek sediment testing near the Cabot Carbon-Koppers site.

The draft health report assesses the public health threat from contaminated sediments in the North Main Street ditch, the North Main Terrace ditch, Springstead Creek and Hogtown Creek downstream of the Cabot Carbon-Koppers hazardous waste site. From 1979-2006, sediments from these areas were tested for arsenic and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). From 2007-2009, sediments were also tested for dioxins.

In an effort to increase community participation in the health assessment process, Florida DOH wants public comments on the report. Florida DOH will make changes and issue a final report later this summer.

There has been no cleanup of contaminated sediments in the North Main Terrace ditch, Springstead or Hogtown creeks. EPA and the party responsible for the site are discussing plans to clean up these sediments.

Creek Sediment Report Conclusions and Recommendations

In the public comment draft report, Florida DOH concludes:

- Incidental ingestion (swallowing) of very small amounts of contaminated sediments in off-site ditches, Springstead Creek, or Hogtown Creek downstream of the Cabot Carbon-Koppers site will not cause non-cancer illness.
- The highest concentrations of arsenic, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and dioxins in the sediments could result in, at most, a very low to extremely low theoretical increased cancer risk.
- Because sediments were not tested for dioxins prior to 2009, Florida DOH can't evaluate the past health risk from exposure to dioxin-contaminated sediments.
- Contaminant concentrations are, however, still above state cleanup target levels and should be cleaned up.

***The ATSDR/Florida DOH report on ditch and creek sediments is now available at:
www.myfloridaeh.com/medicine/superfund/pha.htm
Scroll down to Cabot Carbon/Koppers to see the report***

Or find it on the Alachua CHD website at: www.doh.state.fl.us/chdAlachua/index.htm

Or call toll-free 877-798-2772 to request a copy

Comments on the sediment test report are due by August 23, 2010.

***Please call us with comments, send via email to HSEM@doh.state.fl.us or mail to:
Florida DOH***

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