

Alachua County Board of County Commissioners

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Randall H. Reid
County Manager

October 14, 2010

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

Re: Health Assessment Near Cabot-Koppers Superfund Site, Gainesville, Florida

Dear Dr. Frieden:

As Chair of the Alachua County, Florida, Board of County Commissioners, 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 Superfund Site has been on the National Priorities list since 1984, and the contamination in the site soils and groundwater has not yet been remediated by USEPA Region 4. A proposed plan for clean-up of the Koppers portion of this Superfund Site was released by USEPA Region 4 in July of this year. Alachua County and the City of Gainesville have submitted comments to USEPA on the proposed plan, recommending improvements to make the plan acceptable to the community and raising concerns about the need to assess the impact of offsite contamination on neighboring residents' health. A Record of Decision documenting USEPA's selected remedy for the Site is expected in the fall of this year.

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.

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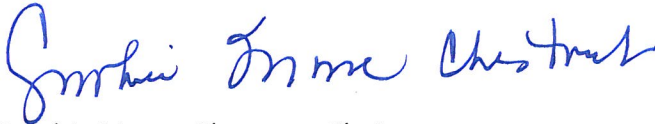


At public meetings to discuss the USEPA's clean-up plans for the Koppers Site, the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners, has received requests from concerned residents in the neighborhood adjacent to the Koppers Site for a door-to door comprehensive health study to ascertain potential exposure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

The Alachua County Board of County Commissioners shares the concerns of the residents and requests CDC's assistance to address and evaluate these concerns. In particular, we are requesting that 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 John Mousa, Pollution Prevention Manager, Alachua County Environmental Protection Department, at 352-264-6805 (jjm@alachuacounty.us) or Anthony Dennis, Environmental Health Director, Alachua County Health Department at 352-334-7931 (Anthony_Dennis@doh.state.fl.us).

Sincerely,



Cynthia Moore Chestnut, Chair
Alachua County Commission
chr10.149

CMC/JJM/jjm

cc:	Board of County Commissioners	Senator Bill Nelson
	Randall H. Reid, County Manager	Congressman Cliff Stearns
	Dave Wagner, County Attorney	Congresswoman Corrine Brown
	Chris Bird, County Environmental Protection Director	
	John Mousa, County Environmental Protection	
	Anthony Dennis, County Health Department	
	Paul Myers, County Health Department	
	Craig Lowe, Mayor, City of Gainesville	
	Gainesville City Commissioners	
	Russ Blackburn, Gainesville City Manager	
	Marion Radson, Gainesville City Attorney	
	Bob Hunzinger, General Manager, Gainesville Regional Utilities	
	Randy Merchant, Florida Department of Health	
	Kelsey Helton, Florida Department of Environmental Protection	
	Scott Miller, Remedial Project Manager, USEPA Region 4	