

February 10, 2011

Mr. Paul Collins Environmental Safety Officer Alachua County Public Schools Facilities Department 3700 NE 53rd Avenue Gainesville, Florida 32609

Review of Soil Sample Results Taken at Three Alachua County Schools:

Stephen Foster Elementary Howard Bishop Middle School Sidney Lanier Center

All of the measured levels of dioxin toxicity equivalence (TCDD-TEQ) in the school soils were found to be below the Florida Residential Soil Cleanup Target Level (SCTL).

The highest measured level of benzo[a]pyrene toxicity equivalence (BaP-TEQ) in the school soil is not likely to harm children. For adults, incidental ingestion (swallowing) of small amounts of soil with the highest BaP-TEQ concentration over a lifetime (70 years) could result in a "very low" theoretical risk of cancer. This cancer estimate uses the highest measured soil concentration, higher end estimate of incidental soil ingestion, and the upper range of the cancer potency. Thus, this is the highest estimated increased cancer risk. The actual increased cancer risk is likely lower and may be as low as zero. BaP-TEQ levels in three soil samples are, however, above the SCTL state standards and steps should be taken to minimize this already low exposure.

The fact that soil sample SL-3 is adjacent to a road and the BaP-TEQ concentration is almost 100 times the others, suggests that asphalt may be the source. Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, including BaP-TEQ are commonly found in asphalt. The BaP-TEQ concentrations at the three schools are consistent with other data collected in control or background measurements.

Do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

**Anthony Dennis** 

Environmental Health Director Alachua County Health Department Florida Department of Health