

From: [Gus Olmos](#)
To: [Elizabeth Hartsfield](#)
Cc: [John Mousa](#)
Subject: FW: Florida Department of Health Representatives/Cabot Carbon/Koppers
Date: Thursday, December 17, 2009 10:54:02 AM

FW EPAC.

Thanks

Gus Olmos, P.E.
Water Resources Supervisor
Alachua County Environmental Protection Department
(352) 264-6806

From: Sharon_Watkins@doh.state.fl.us [mailto:Sharon_Watkins@doh.state.fl.us]
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2009 9:50 AM
To: kayamoon@live.com
Cc: Randy_Merchant@doh.state.fl.us; miller.scott@epamail.epa.gov; Anthony_Dennis@doh.state.fl.us; Paul_Myers@doh.state.fl.us; hill.franklin@epa.gov; keefer.david@epa.gov; cheryl@wildirisbooks.com; cindyharrington@gmail.com; ericamerrell21@gmail.com; mayor@cityofgainesville.org; Gus Olmos; meiburg.stan@epa.gov; drmichaelparsons@yahoo.com
Subject: RE: Florida Department of Health Representatives/Cabot Carbon/Koppers

Dear Ms. Ideker, I have been away at meetings recently and wanted to make sure that my response to you on Monday December 7th answered your questions. I was trying to get back with you before I left town and may have been more brief in my response than you would have liked. I am happy to talk with you about our process for reviewing cancer data in a community. We do access the state data base for these reviews and since cancer is a reportable disease in our state, all cases of cancer should be in this registry since 1981. We would focus on the types of cancers that have been shown to have possible links to any contaminants found at Cabot Koppers and in your neighborhood.

We are not able to review health data for pets, there simply is no state system that tracks these illnesses and we would have no way to know if pets in your area have more or less of a type of disease without such information. I would continue to work with your veterinarian to address your concerns about your pets health.

I did send information to start our process to families that requested it and hopefully provided some background information to them in phone calls or letters. I have heard from a handful of families in your community at this time. Again, we are not planning a door to door survey since we do have cancer data available at the state level and will be starting that review process this spring. The birth defects data for our state is more recent, from 1999 onward and is not typically used at the local level for these types of investigations. Birth defects are fairly rare events and we would be worried about a clustering of the same type of birth defect in a community, say a sudden increase in the number of babies born with limb reductions, for example. If you are aware of this type of clustering please let us know and I will follow-up with you, we have not been contacted by local health providers reporting problems in your area with an increase in birth defects or a type of birth defect.

Please contact me if you have additional questions or if I have not answered your questions fully.

Regards,

Sharon M. Watkins, PhD

Sr. Environmental Epidemiologist
Florida Department of Health
Analytical Environmental Epidemiology Program
Bureau of Environmental Public Health Medicine
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A08
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1742
Sharon_Watkins@doh.state.fl.us
850-245-4444*3939

From: k ideker [mailto:kayamoon@live.com]

Sent: Friday, December 04, 2009 3:47 PM

To: Watkins, Sharon M; Merchant, E Randy; miller.scott@epamail.epa.gov; kayamoon@live.com; Dennis, Anthony D; Myers, Paul D; hill.franklin@epa.gov; keefer.david@epa.gov; Cheryl Krauth; cindy harrington; erica merrell; mayor@cityofgainesville.org; gus@alachuacounty.us; meiburg.stan@epa.gov; maria and michael parsons

Subject: RE: Florida Department of Health Representatives/Cabot Carbon/Koppers

Date: 4 dec 2009

From: Kaya/Protect Gainesvilles Citizens

Dear Sharon Watkins,

To what available cancer data are you referring to. To the best of my knowledge no data has been collected. I base this on my asking residents if they have been interview or questioned by any health workers/ personal from the Alachua County Health, FDOH, or CDC-ATSDR.

I have been told no door to door and no response to a formal request, for information about cancer studies or up coming intent, from two neighborhood citizens (Michael Parsons and Cindy Harrington) many weeks have gone by.

I am most confident your agency is looking into the matter and wants to be forthcoming and transparent. I also understand things of this nature take some time. That said, I feel the need to inform you (FDOH) that citizens feel this is a matter of most urgency. People have reported birth deficits that do not run in there family, cancers in what seems to be larger than normal amounts in this area of town. After 26 years of superfund status, continued operations by Koppers, inadiquet oversight, not much involvement from your department to date. I feel now is the time not six months from now. We both know six months could turn into twelve or twenty four months; heck 26 more years. There is a perception issue here that needs to be fixed.

DR. Jackie Casanova DVM has stated she has had raised concern over liver issues in this area in her clients pets ; and thought toxins in the soil could be a source, not knowing said toxins source. DR. Casanova is now aware of the superfund site and stated she will be educating herself on the matter.

Mr. Scott Miller and David Keefer made mention of CDC/ATSDR becoming involved. Where is FDOH and EPA on that matter? How soon til we can expect "boots on the ground"?

Protect Gainesville Citizens ,would like to please request ,on going up dates about Aluchua County DOH, FDOH, EPA and the CDC/ATSDR intent or on going actions or communations on this matter. We are also asking Forms intended to be used in the collection of said data be forwarded to us. There is much fear, mistrust and misinformation. As a community group with the intent to fully inform citizens with information as we find it and

are informed of it. The opportunity to view and discuss any forms in an open form would go a long way to curb fears and such.

I look forward to being better clarified, and to hearing from any and all parties on this most urgent matter.

Thank you all, Kaya Ideker

> Subject: RE: Florida Department of Health Representatives
> Date: Wed, 2 Dec 2009 10:03:37 -0500
> From: Sharon_Watkins@doh.state.fl.us
> To: Randy_Merchant@doh.state.fl.us; Miller.Scott@epamail.epa.gov;
kayamoon@live.com
> CC: Anthony_Dennis@doh.state.fl.us; Paul_Myers@doh.state.fl.us
>
> Mr. Miller, I would like to clarify that the Florida DOH is in the
> initial phases of reviewing the available cancer data for the Cabot
> Carbon/Koppers site in Alachua County. We normally estimate 6 months or
> more for this effort. We are not aware of any reports of cancer clusters
> in this neighborhood and thus characterizing our efforts as a cancer
> cluster study are not quite correct and I wanted to clarify that point.
> If you would like to discuss this any further please feel free to
> contact me.
>
> Regards,
>
> Sharon M. Watkins, PhD
> Sr. Environmental Epidemiologist
> Florida Department of Health
> Analytical Environmental Epidemiology Program
> Bureau of Environmental Public Health Medicine
> 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A08
> Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1742
> Sharon_Watkins@doh.state.fl.us
> 850-245-4444*3939
>
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Merchant, E Randy
> Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 4:57 PM
> To: Watkins, Sharon M
> Cc: Dennis, Anthony D
> Subject: FW: Florida Department of Health Representatives
>
> Sharon: do you want to clarify for both Scott Miller and Kaya Moon what
> DOH is doing? Randy
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Miller.Scott@epamail.epa.gov [mailto:Miller.Scott@epamail.epa.gov]
> Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 3:12 PM
> To: kayamoon@live.com
> Cc: Merchant, E Randy
> Subject: Florida Department of Health Representatives
>
>
> Kaya,
> Hello, per our conversation today, the Florida Department of Health

> Contact that we have for the Cabot Carbon/Koppers Site is Randy
> McDonald. He may be reached at 850-245-4249 and e-mail
> Randy_Merchant@doh.state.fl.us, Locally, Anthony Dennis at the Alachua
> County Department of Health may be reached at 352-334-7930 and e-mail
> <Anthony_Dennis@doh.state.fl.us>.
> It is our understanding that the Florida DOH is in the process of
> conducting a cancer cluster study for the Stephen Foster Neighborhood
> area.
> Thank you,
> Scott Miller
> Remedial Project Manager
> Superfund Division
> Superfund Remedial Branch
> Section C
> U.S. EPA Region 4
> 61 Forsyth Street, SW
> Atlanta, GA 30303
> Phone (404) 562-9120
> Fax (404) 562-8896
>
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