

Update for Nearby Neighborhood

May 2013

Koppers Hazardous Waste Site

Public Comment Period Opens for Draft Florida Department of Health Report on Indoor Dust Testing of Nearby Homes for Dioxins/Furans

Tests Show No Pending Threat

The Florida Department of Health (the Department) and the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) work jointly to protect the public's health. We supply facts from studies on toxic chemicals to help people who live near hazardous waste sites learn how to stay safe. If we find a health threat, we let those who live nearby know about it right away.

The Department has a draft report about the health risk from dioxins in dust in homes recently tested near the Koppers site in Gainesville. It is now ready for public review. (Learn more about the site on the back of this page.) A final report later this year will address comments on the draft report.

Draft Report Findings

The Department finds that dioxins in dust in houses tested near the site are unlikely to cause harm. The modeled increased risk of cancer in these houses is very low. The dioxins in dust in houses tested near the site are higher than those levels found in the dust of distant houses. The health risk prior to 2012 is unknown since there was no valid testing.

Advice Related to the Site

The Department also still suggests that people living near the site should:

1. Wash hands with soap and water after they touch bare soil.
2. Keep children from playing in the city easement next to the site.
3. Mow lawns only when it is not dry and dusty.
4. House chickens kept for eggs in coops or cages to cut the chance that the birds will eat dioxins in soil. (Note: The City of Gainesville limits people to two chickens per home.)

Also, the party that the U.S. Environmental Agency (EPA) is making clean up the site should:

- Keep testing surface soil of nearby homes for dioxins.
- Clean up dioxins from surface soil around nearby homes.

***Please give your comments on the new draft report
(See how to get a copy on the back page of this update)
Comments are due by June 24, 2013!***

***Learn more about the report - Come to an open house
On Monday, June 10, 2013
from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m.
at the Stephen Foster Elementary School
3800 NW 6th Street, Gainesville***

Future Health Plans

The Department will:

- Review the results of new off-site surface soil tests.
- Keep nearby residents up-to-date on any new findings.

More about the Site

The site is at 200 N.W. 23rd Avenue west of North Main Street. Since 1916, wood was treated there to stop rot. Over the years, some waste leaked into soil and groundwater. In 1984, EPA added the site to the National Priorities List (NPL). People who live west of the site have health concerns about the site.

Since 1989, the Department and ATSDR have:

- Advised the party EPA is making clean up the site to post warning signs where needed.
- Asked EPA to do more testing on- and off-site.
- Found the site is a likely health risk.
- Reviewed test of soil, groundwater, and mud in creek beds.
- Warned people to keep off the site.
- Written 10 reports to respond to concerns.

In May 2012, EPA tested the dust inside 17 houses near the site for dioxins. EPA also tested 13 other, more distant homes to find out background levels.

For More Details

About health or any of the Department reports, including this draft:

- Randy Merchant: 1-877-798-2772 (randy_merchant@doh.state.fl.us)
- Anthony Dennis: 352-334-7930 (anthony_dennis@doh.state.fl.us)

About cleanup of the site or dust testing:

- Scott Miller, U.S. EPA: 404-562-9120 (miller.scott@epamail.epa.gov)

Get your copy of the new draft report on dust testing!
It is posted online: www.myfloridaeh.com/medicine/superfund/pha.htm
or: www.doh.state.fl.us/chdalachua/
or request a copy one of two other ways:
By phone: toll-free 877-798-2772, or
by e-mail: phtoxicology@doh.state.fl.us

Don't forget: The deadline for comments is June 24, 2013.



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**Please place
First class
Postage here**

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