

Queen's 41st Auto Salvage

6600 Land O' Lakes Blvd., Land O' Lakes, FL

Public Comment Draft

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Florida Department of Health Draft Report Ready for Public Comment Deadline for Public Response is November 31, 2001

In response to a complaint in 1997, local, state, and federal agencies sampled wells on the Queen's 41st Auto Salvage property at 6600 Land O' Lakes Blvd. and at a nearby residence.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) found that water from the well on the Queen's property contained chemicals called chlorinated solvents. They also found chlorinated solvents in the nearby residential well. The solvents of concern were benzene, tetrachloroethylene, and trichloroethylene. Other contaminants were arsenic, chromium, and lead. Only the well on the Queen's property had any chemicals at levels exceeding the Florida drinking water standards. The levels found in the residential well were within the Florida drinking water standards.

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) assessed the possible health effects, if any, from the amounts of each chemical found in both the wells. The DOH does not expect any harmful health effects at these chemical amounts.

Currently, the Florida DOH classifies this site as "no apparent public health hazard." This is because no one is known to be coming into contact with chemicals from the site.

The site's owner has installed a filter to treat their water and the health effects study found that drinking the ground water from off the site is not likely to cause illness. As to the past, the Florida DOH found that use of water from the off-site well is unlikely to have caused illness because of the low levels of chemicals in it.

The Florida DOH recommends ongoing monitoring of nearby wells to protect public health. The Pasco County Health Department will be regularly sampling wells within approximately 1/4 mile of the site.

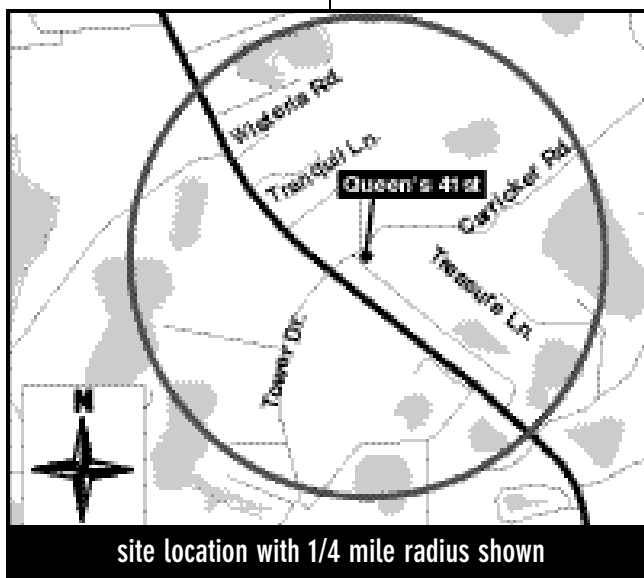
Site Background

The five-acre Queen's property has been used as a salvage yard for over 30 years. Little is known about how the previous owners handled wastes. Since the current owner bought the property in 1990, they have reduced pollution and contamination by removing engines, fuel tanks, and oil from vehicles before crushing them. They have stored gasoline and oil properly, reusing where possible. The Florida

DEP reports that the business complies with local, state, and federal regulations.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) found elevated levels of benzene in only one private well off-site. However, the amounts were very low. The Florida DEP placed a filter on that well. The Florida DOH does not expect any increased health risks to people drinking this water. The period of time when exposure could have occurred is short, at most 13 months, and the levels are very low. People using water with these levels of benzene

every day for 30 years would not be expected to have any health effects.



site location with 1/4 mile radius shown

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Florida DOH Recommendations

The Florida DOH usually gets involved at hazardous waste sites when environmental agencies, such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or the Florida DEP, request it. These agencies ask the Florida DOH for an assessment of any potential health effects from a site. The Florida DOH gathers U.S. EPA and Florida DEP (and other) data and evaluates health factors. Then the Florida DOH informs the agencies and the public of its findings. The Florida DOH's job is to make recommendations about what needs to be done to protect public health. Recommendations are based on its findings in the health assessment process.

For the Queen's 41st Auto Salvage site the Florida DOH makes the following recommendations:

1. The Florida DOH recommends that people living directly on the site use only the filtered ground water for drinking or showering.
2. The Florida DOH recommends monitoring the underground water to know if there is any movement of the contamination. The Department recommends regular testing of on-site and off-site monitoring wells and nearby residential wells to protect public health.

Copies of the complete draft report are available at the Land O' Lakes Branch Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, Land O' Lakes. You may also get a copy by calling Beth Copeland at the Florida DOH and requesting it. You can call toll free at (877) 798-2772 during regular work hours.

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

ATSDR contracts and partners with the Florida DOH to provide Superfund health assessments and community education activities at hazardous waste sites. All Florida DOH Superfund Health Assessment and Education activities are funded 100% by ATSDR.

PLEASE!

Please take a few minutes to fill
in the attached form, giving us
your ideas and concerns. We
need your input by
November 31, 2001.

What DOH & ATSDR Do

- **Assess** health threats from chemicals at a site.
- **Use** samples of soil, water, and air gathered by other agencies, such as EPA and Florida DEP.
- **Examine** health risks associated with each chemical found at a site.
- **Do** human chemical Exposure Investigations.
- **Advise** the public and community healthcare professionals on our findings and our recommendations.
- **Advise** other agencies, such as the U.S. EPA, Florida DEP, and local elected and health officials, on health issues associated with a site.

What DOH & ATSDR Do Not Do

- **Do not** make laws or rules concerning hazardous waste. We assess health risks and inform the public and make our public health recommendations to the agencies involved.
- **Do not** provide medical services.
- **Do not** provide funds for cleanup, or for relocating people. Those decisions are made between the community and the appropriate agencies.
- **Do not** set the standards or guidelines for allowable amounts of chemicals, do not set the national standards.
- **Do not** conduct worker investigations.

For more information on health issues:

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Phone: (850) 245-4299 Toll Free: (877) 798-2772

For more cleanup information:

Laura Heron, Project Manager
FL Department of Environmental Protection
Tampa Office: (813) 744-6100, Ext. 474