



Wingate Road Municipal Incinerator and Landfill Public Health Issues

- **Present health threats from the site**

At this time, the site is not a health threat to the public. In 1990, the Florida Department of Health (DOH) wrote a report that looked at the public health threat from the Wingate site. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) looked at potential health effects in their baseline risk assessment in 1994. The DOH study found no current health threats from soil or water to the nearby residents. The EPA found no current health threats to people, unless someone was living on top of the site.

- **Past health threats from the site**

The Department of Health cannot tell whether any past exposures to chemicals from the site have affected public health. DOH cannot link community health problems with the site because there is no information on what was in the air, soil, and water while the facility was active.

- **Future health threats from the site**

The only future health threat is from contact with the soil for anyone living on top of the site if no clean-up occurs. Clean-up operations might create dust. EPA will take steps to keep it from leaving the site during clean-up. After the site is cleaned up, EPA will monitor the site for 30 years to make sure the site will not harm public health.

- **Cancer and cancer screening**

The Florida Department of Health reviewed cancer information from the Florida Cancer Data System (FCDS) in 1996. The data review was very general. The actual numbers of cancers found were very small. Based on statistics, the FCDS data suggest that the rates of some cancers in the Wingate area may be higher than the Florida average. Five cancers appeared higher in some race-sex groups. There are cancers of the breast, prostate, pancreas, kidney, and eye. The DOH review of these data was preliminary. DOH could not account for important influences on cancer rates in the study. These include how long people have lived in the area, contact with chemicals at work, or lifestyle (diet, smoking, etc.). Because they cannot be sure if the cancer rates are truly higher than average, DOH is reviewing the information using more cancer data and more refined methods. This new review may help DOH confirm or disprove those findings.

During a public meeting in December of 1996, DOH suggested that area residents get screened for breast or prostate cancer. Nationwide, African Americans are at higher risk for both these cancers. The early findings of the DOH study and nationwide rates for African Americans prompted this recommendation by the Department.

The second cancer review may either support or disprove the original findings. Either way, DOH cannot link any health effects to the site itself. There is no information to link cancer or any other health effects with past site exposures.

- **Health studies**

The Florida Department of Health plans to work with area residents to discuss health study options. A health study might be able to identify certain cancer risk factors in the community. This information may help residents take steps to protect their health. A health study, however, will not link any health effects with the Wingate Road Municipal Incinerator and Landfill site.

For more information on these issues, please call

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This informational handout was supported by funds from the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act trust fund through a cooperative agreement with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Public Health Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services