

Clarinda Triangle Area Community Update

February 2005

Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida

Soil Evaluation by Florida DOH

Final Report Expected in March

The History of Clarinda Triangle Area, near the Escambia Treating Company Site

Escambia Treating Company (ETC) operated a wood treating facility in eastern Pensacola (Escambia County), from 1942 to 1982. The property is at 3910 North Palafox Highway, also known as US Highway 29. The facility treated utility poles and foundation pilings with creosote, pentachlorophenol dissolved in diesel fuel, and possibly chromated copper arsenate. Between April 1982 and May 1992, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) conducted several soil and groundwater investigations. They found creosote and pentachlorophenol contamination of groundwater and soil. Soil also contained dioxin, a common impurity of commercial-grade pentachlorophenol. ETC filed for bankruptcy and abandoned the site in 1991.

The EPA directed on-site emergency soil excavation from 1991 to 1993 to prevent further groundwater contamination. The excavation also helped determine the amount of solid waste on-site. During excavation activities, nearby residents complained that strong odors from the site caused eye and skin irritation. EPA temporarily relocated two residents because of health problems.

In 1995, EPA contractors analyzed soil samples from the neighborhoods north and south of ETC. The 1995 sampling identified off-site chemicals at elevated levels, including dioxin, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), arsenic, and lead. On February 12, 1997, EPA decided to relocate approximately 358 families near the ETC site. The relocation was completed in 2003.

In March 2004, EPA contractors collected more off-site soil samples at nine background locations and at five areas near the ETC site in an area called Clarinda Triangle. These samples had arsenic, dioxins, lead, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) above the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Soil Cleanup Target Levels (SCTLs) for residential areas. EPA asked the Florida Department of Health (DOH) to evaluate this data for possible public health effects.

Florida DOH categorizes the Clarinda Triangle surface soil samples as "No Apparent Public Health Hazard".

Why the Florida Department of Health (DOH) Gets Involved

As part of its job, the Florida Department of Health (DOH) reviews test results of soil, water and air to determine if there are any public health risks at hazardous waste sites. A small team of five is tasked with this effort. Most of the time, we review information gathered by both the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This

information usually includes samples of soil, water, and air. The funding for this process is provided by the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

What DOH Looks For During the Review

DOH looks at sample results to see what levels of chemicals are at a site in the soil, water or air. From those levels, we determine if a person exposed to a chemical at a site is likely to get sick. The analysis also considers different factors; including how someone is exposed, how long they are exposed and to how much chemical they are exposed.

Chemicals must be present in certain amounts to cause illness. To determine when there is enough chemical present that is likely to cause health risks, DOH uses guidelines created by the federal agency ATSDR.

The ATSDR sets the guidelines at levels many times lower than the amount known to cause illness. The process provides a large margin of safety for the public. These guidelines were used to evaluate the Clarinda Triangle samples.

Health Consultation Report Findings

Florida DOH categorizes the Clarinda Triangle surface soil as “No Apparent Public Health Hazard”. Levels of arsenic, dioxins, lead, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) measured in the samples are above DEP’s Soil Cleanup Target Levels. However, the chemicals are not at levels likely to cause illness.

Health Consultation Report Recommendations

Although the identified health risks for soil in the Clarinda Triangle area are low, residents and workers should avoid hand-to-mouth contact with surface soil, and should avoid consuming vegetables and fruits grown in contaminated soil, especially root crops. Residents and workers should avoid working in dusty conditions, or should use dust masks if they are unable to avoid dusty conditions.

What DOH Does:

- ✓ *We focus on health.*
- ✓ *We conduct health consultations to answer a specific question about a site*
- ✓ *We conduct public health assessments. These reports look at all the information we can find about a site.*
- ✓ *We inform and educate communities and local doctors about a site.*

For more information: Call DOH toll-free during regular business hours at (877) 798-2772.

Ask to speak to Connie Garrett or Lu Grimm.

The U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) funds 100% of Florida DOH activities at hazardous waste sites, including the cost of this document, approximately 9 cents per copy.

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For more information on DOH activities at hazardous waste sites in Florida, go to:

<http://www.myfloridaeh.com/hsee/SUPERFUND/>