

ATSDR/DOH COMMUNITY HEALTH INFORMATION

LAKELAND, FLORIDA
Landia/Florida Favorite Fertilizer
Hazardous Waste Site

**FINAL PUBLIC HEALTH ASSESSMENT (PHA)
IS NOW AVAILABLE**

This fact sheet gives highlights of the Florida Department of Health's Public Health Assessment (PHA) on the Landia Chemical Company/Florida Favorite Fertilizer hazardous waste site. It repeats much of the information given in the Department of Health's (DOH) August 1999 fact sheet. That earlier report was based on DOH's initial findings. Health risk findings and recommendations have not changed significantly in the finalized PHA. If you want to get a copy of the full PHA report, contact the DOH Bureau of Environmental Toxicology using the addresses and numbers listed on the back of this sheet.

**DOH
RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Residents should not go onto this site. Accidentally eating small amounts of arsenic-contaminated soil (for example, eating without washing hands thoroughly) can cause serious illness.

2. Residents in the Westgate area should not use the ground water because of the potential for contamination. Drinking contaminated ground water can cause serious illness in children and adults, and death in infants.

3. DOH recommends that air sampling be done. It should be collected and analyzed to determine current levels of chemicals in the air, if any. (EPA will be doing the air sampling.)

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) conducted a Public Health Assessment (PHA) on the Landia Chemical Co. (Landia) and Florida Favorite Fertilizer (FFF) site in West Lakeland. A DOH health assessment looks for possible health effects from exposure to chemicals currently at the site. DOH found that some of the chemicals found at this site are present in levels that pose a public health threat.

Site Location



Site Information

The Landia/FFF property is a hazardous waste site in West Lakeland. This 12-acre site is located on the north side of Olive Street in the Westgate community. The area is a mixed-use zone of industrial, commercial and residential properties. Landia occupies five acres on the east side of the parcel. FFF occupies the west seven acres.

Landia: From 1945 to 1987 three companies owned and used this property for pesticide manufacturing, blending and storage. Standard Spray and Chemical did business there for 31 years. They sold to Agrico Chemical Co., who owned it for one year, and sold it to Landia in 1977. Landia operated the plant until 1987 when they closed it.

Florida Favorite Fertilizer: Since the 1940s this property has been used to mix, store and distribute fertilizer. It is currently operating.

The first recorded complaints about this site came in May of 1983 following a fire in one of Landia's chemical processing vats. Some 200 residents called the fire department complaining of chest pain and breathing difficulties. A few months later, in September, residents complained about strong and unpleasant odors coming from the ditch running behind their houses. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) found the milky, yellowish ditch water contained high levels of pesticides. The DEP advised residents to see their physicians. Warning signs were posted along the ditch.

Landia removed contaminated sediment from the first 1,000 feet of the ditch. They sent 140 tons of these soils to a hazardous waste landfill in Emile, Alabama.

In 1992, a Central Florida Pipeline pipe under the site ruptured. The broken pipe spilled some 6,000 gallons of jet fuel on land located between Landia and FFF. Central Florida Pipeline recovered about 4,500 gallons of the fuel. They also removed 10 cubic yards of contaminated soil.

Groundwater Contamination

The ground water in the Westgate community is contaminated with nitrates and pesticides from operations that occurred on the site. Residents are protected, however, because the city provides water to that area. Although there are some irrigation wells, there are no drinking water wells in the contamination area. DOH recommends that Westgate residents do not use their irrigation wells.

Based on regional information, ground water at the site flows southwest, so the wells most likely to be affected would be those lying southwest of the site. The lakes close to the site appear to be out of the path of the ground water flow.

A problem with runoff water from the site was improved by constructing a berm. However, a small amount of runoff still flows from the site through a series of ditches until it reaches Itchepacesassa Creek.

Current Site Activity

As the current law requires, The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is developing a cleanup plan along with Landia and FFF. The EPA will publish this plan when it is completed. The EPA also will be collecting data to determine the exact direction of ground water flow and the extent of ground water contamination. They also will be doing air sampling.

NEW INFORMATION

The DOH has received initial results from their November 1999 fish testing. The fish tested (armored catfish, bluegill and nile perch) came from the storm water pond at Jensen Road and Highland Street. Early test results for arsenic and organochlorine pesticides indicate that eating fish from the pond is unlikely to cause illness.

The DOH is contracted by and partners with the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). DOH is responsible for assessing the public health risk at this site, for educating the community about the results of the PHA, and for making recommendations to protect the people when a health threat is found. ATSDR entirely funds the state's assessment and public education-information work at this site, including this Fact Sheet. DOH and ATSDR function as advisors about potential health risks to the general public and to the other agencies involved at the site.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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