

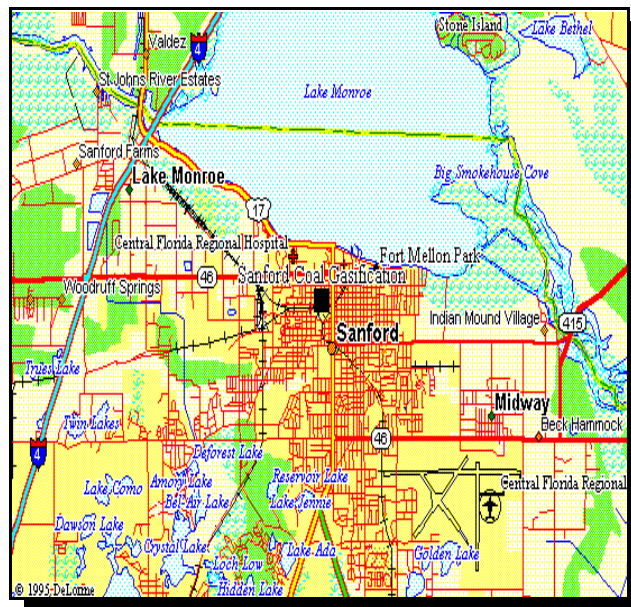
**ATSDR/FDOH Community Health Information**

# Sanford Coal Gasification Hazardous Waste Site in Sanford, FL

## About the Site

The Sanford Coal Gasification hazardous waste site covers two acres in Sanford, Seminole County, Florida. This property includes the old Gasification Plant, the 6th Street storm sewer, the unnamed tributary (ditch) to Cloud Branch Creek, Cloud Branch Creek itself, and the Lake Monroe outfall of Cloud Branch Creek.

From the 1880s until 1952, the site had several owners, all producing gas from coal. Coal gasification is the process of making gas from coal. Until the 1940s almost all gas for residential and commercial use was produced this way. Unfortunately it creates a by-product that can be harmful: large amounts of wastewater containing coal tar. The plant released wastewater into a storm sewer leading to the unnamed tributary. There are no records describing waste-water disposal; however, it was common practice to release wastewater onto low-lying areas and into streams or lakes. Eight companies owned the site before the process was discontinued. In 1880 the owner was Sanford Light and Fuel Company. The current owner is Florida Public Utilities Co. All owners are listed in the draft PHA.



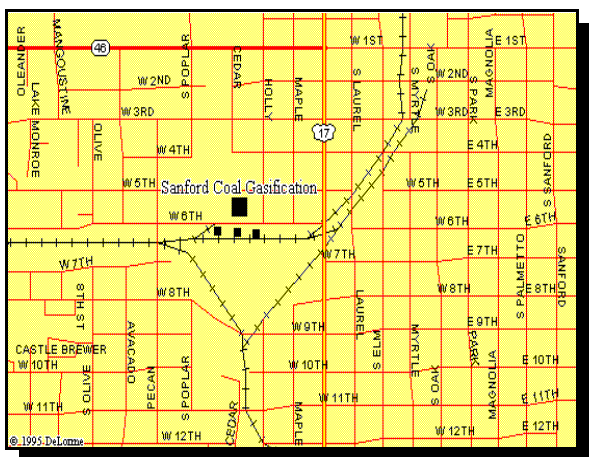
## State and Federal Agency Involvement

In 1990 the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) found contaminants in samples from the site. From 1991 to 1993 the property owners, called the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs), sampled soil, groundwater and sediment. The PRPs and the FDEP could not reach an agreement on cleaning up the site. In 1997 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) evaluated the site and recommended further cleanup.

In September 1997, FDOH (the Florida Department of Health), Bureau of Environmental Toxicology (funded by ATSDR--the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry) began evaluating the site. All chemicals found in the samples were evaluated for effect on human health. The FDOH draft report, "Public Health Assessment (PHA), Sanford Coal Gasification Site," was published in September 1999. The draft PHA contains information on the site's history, activities at the site, and tables of information on samples taken from the site. This fact sheet summarizes the draft PHA. Call FDOH (number on back of this sheet) for a copy of the draft PHA.

### Chemicals of Concern at the Site

FDEP found metals and PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) in amounts higher than background levels in site soils. They also found levels above drinking water standards in the site's



groundwater. The metals were found not to be contaminants of concern through extensive evaluation, described and explained in the PHA.

### **Public Health Action Plan**

The Florida Department of Health Bureau of Toxicology will evaluate the EPA/PRP cleanup plans when they are completed. At that time we will determine if added recommendations are needed. FDOH also will warn nearby residents through community education not to wade in the unnamed tributary of Cloud Branch Creek.

Since cleanup plans are largely being handled by the U.S. EPA, questions about cleanup should be directed to EPA at their number, listed below.

## **Florida Department of Health CONCLUSIONS**

**The following are draft Florida Department of Health conclusions from evaluation of health risks at the site.**

1. The site is a public health hazard because we estimate that people would be at a low increased risk of skin cancer from wading (skin contact) in the unnamed tributary of Cloud Branch Creek.
2. Currently there is no apparent health hazard from the groundwater. The shallow aquifer is contaminated but we do not think people currently are drinking water from the shallow aquifer. However, there are no regulations preventing people from drilling new wells into that contaminated shallow water source.
3. There is no apparent health hazard from surface soil or sediments.

## **Florida Department of Health RECOMMENDATIONS**

**These are draft Florida Department of Health recommendations for the site.**

1. Restrict access to the unnamed tributary of Cloud Branch Creek.
2. Identify the extent of groundwater contamination and assure no new wells are installed in the contaminated aquifer.

## **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

For questions about health concerns or for additional information/copies, contact

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or Beth Copeland, Community Involvement  
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For questions about site cleanup, contact

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