

The Former Solitron Devices, Inc.

HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE

1177 Blue Heron Blvd., Riviera Beach, FL

Public Comment Time Extended to Dec. 15, 2000

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

Riviera Beach City Hall, 600 W. Blue Heron Dr.

Displays. Slides. FDOH Health Assessors and local health officials to talk with you and answer your questions.

Tuesday, November 28, 2000

Open from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m.

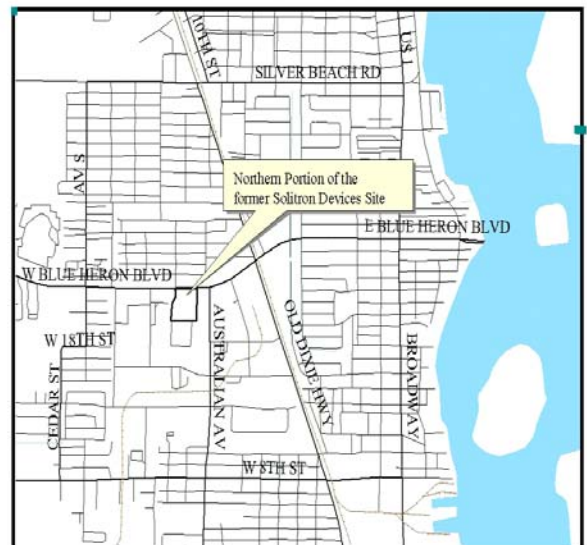
The Florida Department of Health

Public Health Assessment Report Is Now Available for Public Comment

The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) has completed the Public Health Assessment on the former Solitron Devices, Inc. hazardous waste site. In the summer of 1999 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) asked the FDOH to look at possible effects of chemicals from this site on people's health. At the same time, EPA asked that we also look at the Trans Circuits, Inc. site in Lake Park. These two sites are closely located and affect the same community. Both reports are now ready for the public to give their input.

At the Solitron site, **chromium**, **chlorobenzene** and other solvents, and **vinyl chloride** are the chemicals that FDOH found in amounts of concern. **Chromium** is in the soil on and near the site. It can be a problem if people disturb the soil on the site. FDOH has recommended special testing if the soil at the site is to be disturbed. Chromium is also in the groundwater at and near the site, but it is not in the Riviera Beach Utilities supply wells. **Chlorobenzene and other solvents** are also in the underground water on and off the site. But the solvents now are not at high enough levels to be likely to cause health effects. Residents of this area who are drinking City of Riviera Beach Utilities water are not getting any of the problem chemicals in their tap water.

Vinyl chloride is the chemical FDOH finds may have a pathway, or a way to come in contact with people now. And vinyl chloride can be harmful. That is why **FDOH's most important health finding is that the water treated by Riviera Beach Utilities is clean now. This is true because Riviera Beach's water treatment system removes the vinyl chloride. Additionally, we found that the levels of vinyl chloride in the water over the years is less and it continues to drop.**



Site Location, Riviera Beach

Site Information

The former Solitron Devices site covers about 8.5 acres. It is located at 1177 Blue Heron Blvd., Riviera Beach. From 1960 to 1965, Honeywell owned it. In 1965 Solitron Devices took it over. Both companies made electronic parts in the northern building on the north side of the site. Solitron moved into the southern building in 1982. It closed in 1992. There has been no contamination at the southern building.

Wastewater from making the electronic parts had a high acid content. It corroded the tanks built to hold it back from getting into the ground. In the northern building it also corroded the plumbing. Raw sewage got into the soil and underground water. We are not sure how far it has spread. To find out, we recommend more sampling and testing.

FDOH found in the records of city water tests that vinyl chloride first appeared in supply wells above the minimum level in July 1982. The amount was slightly above Florida drinking water standards. In August 1981, a year before this test, and in January 1983, six months after that test, city tap water met state drinking water standards.

We have no way of knowing exactly how long the vinyl chloride levels may have been up. But we do know, from city water records, it was for no more than the 18 months. This is the time between the August 1981 tests, that were okay,

to those that were again okay in January of 1983.

Drinking Water From Private Wells

FDOH is concerned about people in the area who may be drinking water from a private well. Private wells have water that has not been treated by the city's treatment system. This year FDOH sampled seven private wells near the site. We found these wells from area permit records. All seven wells were clean. There may be other wells we don't know about. We want to test all private drinking water wells near these sites. If you live within one mile of either the Solitron or Trans Circuits sites, we will test your drinking water well, **free of charge**. To ask for testing, call Connie Garrett, Health Assessor, **toll free: (877) 798-2772**.

Additional Community Concern: Possible Past Exposures

Community residents have asked us about health effects from possible past exposures. **To find out about any health effects, FDOH must know how much of a chemical was present, and for how long.** Water companies in Florida have only had to keep certain records since the mid-1980s. The Riviera Beach utility was unusual because it kept more records than most other Florida cities.

But in the 1960s and 1970s water companies did not do water quality testing. Water quality testing finds out what chemicals are in the water and how much is there. **We cannot know what health effects might be expected, if any, from any past exposure without knowing what was in the water at the time.** But there are no records to tell us any of that information. We do know that since the city started testing in 1981, there was only one test that found the vinyl chloride up. This was in August 1982. The level was slightly above Florida drinking water standards at that time. The test a year earlier met standards, and seven months later it again met standards. **While there is no way of knowing exactly how much vinyl chloride was present, FDOH finds that if the water carried the elevated one-time finding for 30 years, we would not expect to see any health effects.**

The community has requested a cancer study. **FDOH is doing a study of cancer in the area compared with other similar communities in Florida.** This study is mostly a computer search of all Florida cancer records since they were begun in 1981. The number of diagnosed cancer cases from this area will be compared with the rest of the state, and with other communities that are similar.

Chemicals and Drinking Water Standards

Some chemicals can be harmful at low levels. Others can only be harmful at high levels. This is why we must know how much of a chemical is or was present in order to know any possible health effects.

State drinking water standards are the amounts of chemicals allowed to be in drinking water. They are set by Florida's Department of Environmental Protection. DEP sets standards very low to protect people's health. That means the amounts allowed are much lower than the amounts known to cause any health effects.

Please see the "General Information: Chemicals and Drinking Water Standards" section on page 2 of the attached Trans Circuits fact sheet for better understanding of how water is processed.

WHAT FDOH/ATSDR DO

- g We assess health threats from chemicals at a site.
- g We do human Exposure Investigations.
- g We use the soil, water, and air samples gathered by other agencies, such as EPA.
- g We examine health risks associated with each chemical at a site.
- g We advise the public on our findings and recommendations.
- g We advise other agencies, such as the EPA, on health issues.
- g We educate communities and their healthcare professionals on our findings and recommendations.

WHAT WE DO NOT DO

- g We do not make or enforce laws or rules concerning hazardous waste.
- g We do not provide medical services.
- g We do not provide funds for cleanup or for relocating people.
- g We do not set the standards for allowable amounts of chemicals.

FDOH has extended the public comment period to run until December 15, 2000. We must have your questions and concerns by then in order for them to be addressed in the final health report. However, you may call us any time during work hours, before or after the deadline, to talk with us about your concerns or to ask questions.

****FDOH also informs area healthcare professionals of our Public Health Assessment findings.** You can take this flier along on your next doctor visit and discuss it with your physician.**

FOR MORE HEALTH INFORMATION

**Connie Garrett, Health Assessor, or
Randy Merchant, Administrator**
Bureau of Environmental Epidemiology, FL DOH
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin #A-08
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1712 **(850) 245-4299**

FOR CLEANUP INFORMATION

Pam Scully, EPA Project Manager
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U.S. EPA, 61 Sw Forsyth St.
Atlanta, GA 30303
(404) 562-8935

The U.S. ATSDR funds 100% of Florida's Superfund Health Assessment program, including this fact sheet, at approx. 50c ea.