

Trans Circuits, Inc. HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE

210 Newman Road, Lake Park, Florida

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 will be there 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 Is Now Available for Public Comment

In 1999 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) asked the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) to do a public health assessment on the Trans Circuits, Inc. site. A Public Health Assessment looks at any possible health effects from chemicals at a hazardous waste site. It takes about a year to do one.

FDOH now has completed the health assessment. The report is in the community for residents to study, question, and give their input. At the same time EPA asked us to assess the Trans Circuits site, they also asked us to look at the Solitron Devices site in Riviera Beach. The sites are located close together and both affect the same community. **In the past, both sites put out chemicals that contaminated the soil at the site, and also the underground water. The contamination has moved with the flow of the water.**

To be sure of getting community input on both reports, FDOH has extended Public Comment time to December 15, 2000. You can write your comments on the attached form. You also can call us **toll free at (877) 798-2772.**

FDOH found that in some of the tests, some chemicals in the soil and water at the site were above acceptable levels. These chemicals were **lead, fluoride, nickel and trichloroethene.** Recent

sampling has shown that **lead** is no longer at elevated levels. **Nickel** also is at very low levels now. These low levels are not known to have any harmful health effects.

But **fluoride** and **trichloroethene** are still high in underground water at and near the site. These chemicals might be in private well water, because only the city supply is treated. If these chemicals are in someone's drinking water, that might have health effects. To ask for testing, call us **toll free at (877) 798-2772.**

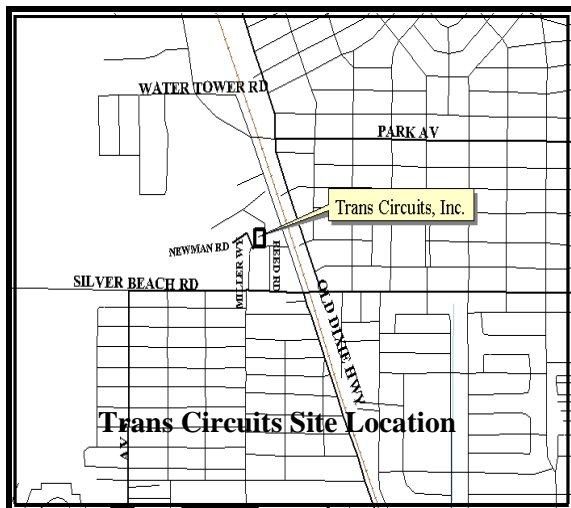
FDOH has notified area physicians of our findings. If you have health concerns, please discuss them with your physician. The City of Riviera Beach Utilities treats their water for all of the chemicals listed above.

The most important FDOH health finding is that the water treated by Riviera Beach Utilities is clean. This is because Riviera Beach's water treatment system removes the harmful chemicals.

Drinking Water From Private Wells

FDOH is concerned about people in the area who may be drinking water from private wells. This year FDOH sampled seven private wells near the site that we found from public records. When FDOH tested them, none of them had chemicals above the state's standards.

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 Trans Circuits or Solitron sites, we will test your private drinking water well, **free of charge.** To ask for testing, call Connie Garrett, Health Assessor, **toll free: (877) 798-2772.**



Being Exposed in the Past

To estimate any health risks, we must know these things:

1. What chemicals were present in the water?
2. How long were they there?
3. How much of each chemical was there?

We don't know the answers to any of these questions. If we do not know what was actually in the water, we cannot know for sure what the health effects might be, if any. There is no way to know what was in the water in the years before 1981.

The Riviera Beach utility kept water quality records long before many other Florida cities. They started this in 1981. Water companies in Florida have only had to keep these records since the mid-1980s. But no records were kept of what was in the water during before then. That includes the 1960s and 1970s, the time the community is concerned about.

Site Information

The Trans Circuits, Inc. site, at 210 Newman Road in Lake Park, covers about one acre of ground. The plant operated from 1976 to 1985 under two different owners. Both companies made electronic parts. Etched Products, Inc. owned the property from 1976 to 1978, when they sold it to Trans Circuits, Inc. In 1985 Trans Circuits closed the business, but they still own the property.

The wastewater from making the electronic parts contained solvents and metals. It escaped from the holding pond and got into the soil and the underground water. Some of the chemicals are still in the soil at the site. This could be a problem if the soil is disturbed. We have recommended that more tests be made on the soil before any digging is done there. This will protect both workers and nearby residents.

FDOH is doing a study of cancer in the area compared with other similar communities in Florida. Such a study usually takes about three months to complete. It is mostly a computer search of all Florida cancer records since they were started in 1981. The number found for this area is then compared to the number found for the rest of the state, and also for similar communities.

General Information: Chemicals and Drinking Water Standards

State drinking water standards are the amounts of chemicals allowed to be in drinking water. In Florida, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) sets those standards, not the Department of Health. We can advise DEP, however. The amounts allowed (standards) are much lower than the amounts known to cause any health effects.

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.

Tests found that chemicals from both the Solitron and Trans Circuits sites were in some of the City of Riviera Beach Utilities supply wells. But most of the wells did not have the chemicals at levels above standards.

In South Florida, it is common practice for municipal water to be taken from several source wells. Mixing the water from several wells protects people. Mixing means that any bad water would be mixed with water from good wells. It also helps with the problem of salt water getting into drinking wells. When a pump pulls out all the water in the aquifer at the time, it can begin pulling in salt water. Using different wells each day helps to not pull too much from one spot for a long time. However, changing supply wells every day has added to making it impossible to know now exactly what might have been in the tap water in the past.

We have extended the public comment period to run until December 15, 2000. You may call any time during work hours, before Dec. 15 or after, to talk with FDOH about the site. For your questions to be printed in the final document, we must get them before the deadline.

WHAT FDOH/ATSDR DO

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

WHAT WE DO NOT DO

- ✓ We do not make or enforce laws or rules concerning hazardous waste.
- ✓ We do not provide medical services.
- ✓ We do not provide funds for cleanup or for relocating people.
- ✓ We do not set standards for allowable amounts of chemicals. We only advise on these matters.

The U.S. ATSDR funds 100% of Florida's Superfund Health Assessment program, including this fact sheet, at approximately 50 cents each.

FOR MORE FDOH INFORMATION

Connie Garrett, Health Assessor, or Randy Merchant, Administrator
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4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin #A-08
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1712
(850) 245-4299 Toll Free (877) 798-2772

FOR CLEANUP INFORMATION

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(404) 562-8935

