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Florida Department of Health Lifts Fish Consumption Advisory On Fenholloway River

TALLAHASSEE— Department of Health (DOH) Secretary John O. Agwunobi, M.D., M.B.A., announced today that an advisory banning consumption of fish from the Fenholloway River in Taylor County has been lifted, effective immediately.

The advisory warned the public against eating fish from the river, which at the time had high levels of dioxin contamination. The ban included the area of Fenholloway River located from the discharge point of the Buckeye Cellulose, Inc. (the former Proctor and Gamble) pulp mill to the mouth of the river. Samples of fish collected from three points in the river now show much lower dioxin levels in both types of fish likely to show dioxin contamination throughout the area previously covered by the advisory.

“This collaboration between Buckeye Cellulose, DOH, the Department of Environmental Protection, and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission demonstrates how industry and state agencies can work together to improve Florida’s environment,” said Agwunobi.

Fish consumption advisories are issued by DOH whenever consuming fish from certain lakes, rivers or coastal waters presents a human health risk. For information on other fish consumption advisories, go to the Florida Department of Health web page at www.doh.state.fl.us and select “Fish Consumption Advisories” from the subject list.

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