Neighborhood Update
April 2014
Koppers Hazardous Waste Site

Florida Department of Health
Updates Residents on Residential Soil Cleanup and Status of Health Reports

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) works to protect health. The U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) provides us with funding to help people who live near hazardous waste sites learn how to stay safe. If we find a health threat, we let those who live near a site know about it right away.

Residential Soil Cleanup Underway

The responsible party, Beazer, has begun cleanup of nearby residential soil. Working under the supervision of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), they plan to finish this cleanup in about six months.

Beazer plans to clean up the yards, moving from north to south. They are starting the cleanup near the intersection of NW 31 Avenue/NW 4th Terrace. From there, they will complete work in block phases down to NW 26th Avenue. They will dig up one foot of soil, replace it with clean fill and replace the yards’ landscaping.

During the cleanup, Beazer is wetting the soil both on- and off-site to limit dust. They are also keeping the streets wet. While Beazer takes out soil in yards with dioxins above a certain level, they run four air monitors in front of the homes. These monitors measure particles (dust) found in the air. Beazer tests for dust because the dioxin test takes too long (weeks). By testing for particles, they can ensure that nearby residents are not breathing dust that contains dioxins.

If particle levels reach an action level, the monitors set off an alarm so staff can increase efforts to reduce dust. The action level is set at the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for dust. EPA’s Remedial Action Work Plan explains in detail how these monitors work. (To see the work plan, please go to the Alachua County Protection Department’s website about the site and scroll down to the report called “Tetra Tech: Remedial Action Workplan: blocks G and H” at: http://www.alachuacounty.us/Depts/EPD/Pollution/Pages/CabotKoppersSuperfund.aspx ). Beazer is also measuring noise levels during the cleanup.

For a number of days after Beazer replaces the soil with clean fill and puts sod down, they will keep the monitors going. They will include a record of all the dust and noise data in a final report.

If you have any specific questions about the cleanup or schedule, please call Kate Libby at 352-213-0599 or e-mail: koppers.cleanup@tetratech.com. Ms. Libby is the community coordinator overseeing this project on behalf of Beazer, the responsible party.

Resident Website Created

A website and blog have been created as a resource for the residents affected by the cleanup. Please visit it for the most recent updates about the cleanup and to view maps or documents. You can also get in touch with other residents/property owners about the project via the website: http://neighborsupport.com/

There is also a blog link at: http://neighborsupport.blogspot.com/
See all the health reports written about the Koppers site at:
http://www.floridahealth.gov/chdAlachua/koppers.html
Or call for a copy toll-free at:
877-798-2772
Or by email:
PHToxicology@FLHealth.gov

For More Details
About health or any Florida DOH health report about Koppers:
• Randy Merchant (toll-free): 1-877-798-2772
• Anthony Dennis: 352-334-7930
About cleanup of the site or dust testing: Scott Miller, U.S. EPA: U.S. EPA: 404-562-9120