

Tallevast Community Update

June 2005

Former American Beryllium Site Information

Florida DOH and Manatee CHD Continue to Review Available Data

The History of the former American Beryllium Site

The former American Beryllium site is on 5-acres at 1600 Tallevast Road in Bradenton. American Beryllium manufactured ultra-precision machine parts where metals were milled, lathed, and drilled into various components. Chemicals used and wastes generated at the facility included oils, petroleum-based fuels, solvents, acids, and metals. In 1996, Lockheed Martin Corporation purchased the American Beryllium facility and closed it later that year.

Why the Florida Department of Health (DOH) Gets Involved

Working with the county health departments, the Florida Department of Health (DOH) reviews test results of soil, water and air to determine if there are any public health risks at hazardous waste sites. A small team of six is tasked with this effort. We review information gathered by both the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) provides funding for this program.

What DOH Looks For During a Review

DOH looks at sample results to see what levels of selected chemicals are at a site in the soil, water or air. From those levels, we determine if nearby residents are likely to get sick. The analysis considers if someone is exposed, how someone is exposed, how long they are exposed and to how much chemical they are exposed.

Chemicals must be present in certain amounts to cause illness. To determine when there is enough chemical present that is likely to cause health risks, DOH uses ATSDR guidelines. The ATSDR sets the guidelines at levels many times lower than the amount known to cause illness. The process provides a large margin of safety for the public. These guidelines were used to evaluate Tallevast samples. It is also important to determine if anyone has come into contact with a chemical.

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) and the Manatee County Health Department (CHD) assess the public health threat at hazardous waste sites in the county. As part of this process, we review results from soil and water tests done by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). We also review tests done by the current owners of the site, Lockheed Martin, or their technical consultants, Tetra Tech.

The Florida DOH looks at many factors at a site to decide if a person exposed to a chemical at a certain levels is likely to get sick. These factors include *how* someone is exposed and *how long* they are exposed.

What DOH has Done So Far at the Former American Beryllium Site in Tallevast

Last summer, the Florida DEP and the Manatee CHD tested private drinking water wells near the site. Florida DEP also tested groundwater in Tallevast. Since then, additional testing has been done by Tetra Tech and DEP.

Currently, the Florida DOH is reviewing the test results to determine if there are any health risks for residents who drank contaminated water in the past. No one is currently using private wells since the county extended municipal water to the community in 2004. We will include the results of our findings in a health consultation (HC) report.

The Florida DOH is also writing a report on chemicals found in soil in the Tallevast community. In July, 2004, we shared initial findings on the soil chemicals with the community at a public meeting.

At the request of community FOCUS group leaders, Florida DOH will wait on additional groundwater and soil test results before completing the reports.

The Florida Department of Health continues to work on determining what risk the former American Beryllium site poses to the health of residents in the Tallevast community.

Other health activities at Tallevast

The Florida DOH and the Manatee CHD tested air in four Tallevast buildings on August 18, 2004. These samples were collected to address the concerns of local residents that trichloroethylene (TCE) and other chemicals from the groundwater below might be entering their homes. The Florida DOH did not find TCE in the air and none of the other chemicals detected in the air were at levels likely to cause illness.

During that same month, the Florida DOH collected oranges from one resident's property and corn from another. Since there were no gardens found with root vegetables, none were tested. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACCS) food laboratory in Tallahassee analyzed the oranges and corn. The levels of metals in them are not likely to cause illness.

From October, 2004, until March, 2005, three separately funded projects tested the blood of Tallevast community members, former workers and household members of former workers for beryllium sensitivity. The three projects included one funded by the Manatee County Commission, which was conducted by the Manatee County Health Department. ATSDR funded additional testing at the Sarasota County Health Department. Also, the U.S. Department of Labor funded testing specifically for former workers. Results of all the testing by the two county health departments have been sent to people tested and will be compiled in a report.

What other plans does the Florida DOH and Manatee CHD have for Tallevast related to the former American Beryllium site?

We plan to:

- Complete a health consultation report about trichloroethylene (TCE) and other solvents found in private drinking water wells,
- Complete a health consultation report about chemicals found in soil,
- Release a health consultation report about the four indoor air samples,
- Write a health consultation report about homegrown fruits and vegetables,
- Write a health consultation about the results of beryllium sensitivity testing funded through ATSDR,
- Address community health concerns in a comprehensive public health assessment report, and
- Continue to keep community members informed.

What DOH Does:

- ✓ *We focus on health.*
- ✓ *We conduct health consultations to answer a specific question about a site.*
- ✓ *We conduct public health assessments. These reports look at all the information we can find about a site.*
- ✓ *We inform and educate communities and local doctors about a site.*

For more information: Call DOH toll-free during regular business hours at (877) 798-2772. Speak to Nancy Malaret about the review of this data, Susan Bland about indoor air, beryllium sensitivity or fruit and vegetable testing, or Lu Grimm about community involvement. The U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) funds 100% of Florida DOH activities at hazardous waste sites, including the cost of this document, approximately 9 cents per copy.

Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Community Environmental Health
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin #A-08
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1712
Telephone: (850) 245-4299 ♦ Toll-free: 1-877-798-2772 during business hours
For more information on DOH activities at hazardous waste sites in Florida, go to:
www.myfloridaeh.com/community/SUPERFUND/index.html