

Site Review And Update

PEPPERS STEEL AND ALLOYS
MEDLEY, DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CERCLIS NO. FLD032544587

SEPTEMBER 2, 1992

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Public Health Service
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
Division of Health Assessment and Consultation
Atlanta, Georgia 30333

Site Review and Update: A Note of Explanation

The purpose of the Site Review and Update is to discuss the current status of a hazardous waste site and to identify future ATSDR activities planned for the site. The SRU is generally reserved to update activities for those sites for which public health assessments have been previously prepared (it is not intended to be an addendum to a public health assessment). The SRU, in conjunction with the ATSDR Site Ranking Scheme, will be used to determine relative priorities for future ATSDR public health actions.

SITE REVIEW AND UPDATE

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Prepared by

Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services
Under a Cooperative Agreement With
The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

SUMMARY OF BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

The Peppers Steel and Alloy Company Superfund site is in a light industrial section of Medley, Florida. Medley is in north Dade County, about 10 miles northwest of downtown Miami (Figure 1). Since the 1960s, this 30-acre site was used for battery manufacturing, concrete casting, fiberglass boat manufacturing, heavy equipment repair and servicing, sandblasting and painting, and automobile metal salvaging. Peppers Steel and Alloy Company salvaged used electrical transformers and disposed of the remaining oil on the ground. The oil in those transformers contained high levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). In 1978, the Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) discovered that subsurface soil was contaminated with lead, arsenic, and PCBs, and there was an oil layer above the groundwater. Because of the low solubility of the contaminants, groundwater contamination was minimal and limited to the site. In the summer of 1983, a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) contractor removed about 1,200 gallons of oil from above the groundwater. EPA added the site to the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) in September 1983.

In a 1983 health assessment, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) concluded that the site was not a public health threat. Some members of the community were concerned that the groundwater would leach metals and PCBs into the nearby Miami Canal, which would transport them near municipal water supply wells. Direct skin contact with the transformer oils, or inhalation of PCB-contaminated dust during cleanup were the only exposure pathways ATSDR identified. ATSDR recommended that, during site cleanup, workers should be protected from skin contact with the oil or inhalation of PCB-contaminated dust.

In September of 1983, the National Institute of Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH) reviewed the concentrations of PCBs found in fat samples taken from five Peppers Steel and Alloy Company employees. NIOSH found that the workers' PCB levels were in the low to middle of the range expected for chronic PCB exposure and did not recommend follow-up investigation.

In a 1986 enforcement decision document, EPA selected the following remedy for the site: collection and off-site disposal of the remaining subsurface oil; excavation of soil contaminated with PCBs, lead, and arsenic; and solidification/stabilization of the soils in an on-site cement monolith. Florida Power and Light, a potentially responsible party, completed the remedy in January 1989. EPA will continue to monitor the groundwater and may remove the site from the NPL in 1994.

CURRENT SITE CONDITIONS

Randy Merchant, Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services (Florida HRS) and Walter Livingstone, Dade County Public

Health Unit, visited the site on July 8, 1992. They observed that the site is covered with crushed limerock and surrounded by a chain-link fence. Some plants were growing on site. There is a battery manufacturer near the site, but no residences. There was no sign of site trespass.

CURRENT ISSUES

The only public health concern at this site -- remedial worker exposure -- was addressed in the site remediation safety plan. No other public health concerns have been identified. The community's concern that contaminated groundwater from the site would contaminate the Miami Canal and, subsequently, municipal water supply wells was not justified. PCBs and metals were solidified and stabilized before they migrated from the site.

CONCLUSIONS

The 1983 ATSDR conclusion that this site does not pose a public health threat is still valid. The recommendation that remediation workers be protected from exposure was followed. Because the site has been remediated, there is no need for further public health evaluation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Further public health actions at this site are not recommended. Remediation of the oil and contaminated soil eliminated the threat to public health. There are no longer any identifiable public health concerns.

The data and information developed in this site review and update have been evaluated to determine if follow-up actions may be indicated. No further public health actions are indicated at this time.

DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

Florida HRS reviewed the following documents during preparation of this summary:

1. Health Assessment (ATSDR), Peppers Steel & Alloy Company, September 1983.
2. September 6, 1983, memo from James M. Melius, M.D. (Hazard Evaluations & Technical Assistance Branch, NIOSH) to Georgi Jones (Chief, Superfund Implementation Group, Centers for Disease Control).
3. Enforcement Decision Document (EPA), Peppers Steel and Alloys Inc. March 1986.
4. Final Report of Remedial Action, Peppers Steel & Alloys Superfund Site, Medley, Florida. Florida Power and Light. June 1989.
5. Fact Sheet, Peppers Steel & Alloys Superfund Site (EPA), (not dated).

Preparer of the report: E. Randall Merchant, M. S., Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services.

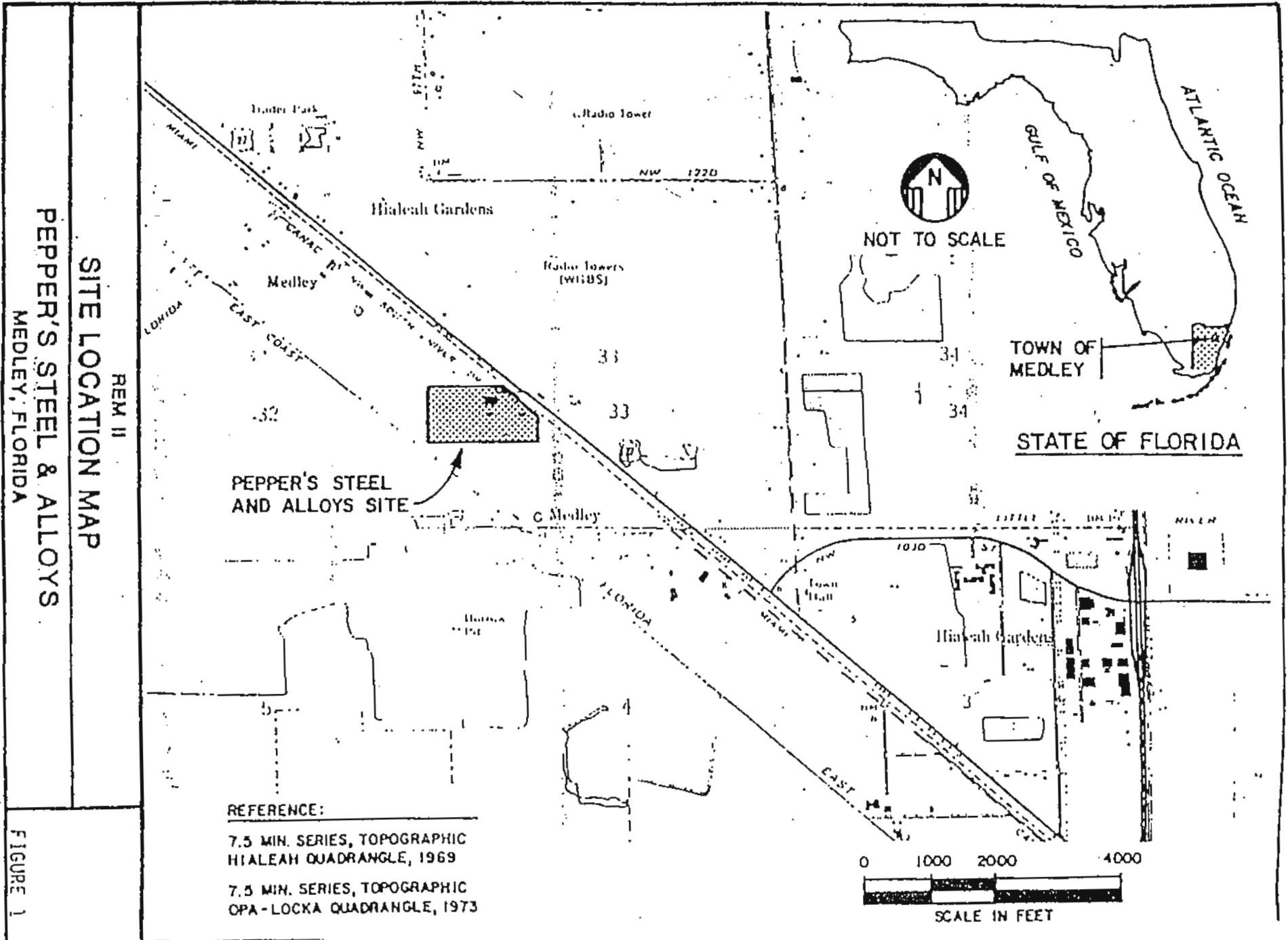


FIGURE 1