

Pearson Property
(aka – Leesburg Thermometer)
14 Ginger Circle
Leesburg, Florida
County: Lake
District: Central
Site Lead: Bureau of Waste Cleanup
Approved for Cleanup: June 24, 2004
Delisted: July 24, 2006
HWC # 147

Site Description and History

The Pearson Property is located at 14 Ginger Circle within a residential neighborhood in Leesburg, Lake County, Florida in Section 35, Township 19S, Range 24E at 28° 47' 30.9298" N, 81° 53' 04.0864" W. Land use within 1,000 feet of the site is categorized as a mix of commercial and residential.

In July 1998, the DEP Central District requested that DEP's Site Inspection Section (SIS) conduct a sampling inspection at the site after Mr. Pearson discovered a significant quantity of buried thermometers on the property while installing an irrigation line. SIS subsequently performed soil sampling on the property and found thermometers were buried from depths 0-1, 3-4, and 6-7 feet below ground surface (bgs). Laboratory analysis on the soil samples indicated detectable mercury concentrations within all three intervals with the highest concentrations (5.6 to 210 milligrams per kilogram [mg/kg]) detected in the 0-1 foot bgs interval. In September 2001, DEP completed its Preliminary Assessment and forwarded the assessment data to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region 4.

In December 2001 the USEPA conducted a removal assessment of the site and it was approved for removal activities. In February 2003, WRS, the EPA's Emergency Response and Removal Services contractor, began excavation and disposal of the onsite contaminated soils. Soil samples were collected and analyzed from the leading edge of the excavation until laboratory results indicated the mercury contaminated soil had been removed. A total of 55.27 tons of mercury contaminated soil was removed from the site to a depth of 1 foot bgs. In March 2003, the excavation and disposal activities were completed. However, no groundwater samples were collected or analyzed for mercury contamination.

Threat

Previous investigations revealed mercury contamination of on-site soils. No assessment of groundwater contamination was conducted during the initial DEP and USEPA site assessments. Mercury contaminated groundwater was a potential health threat to local residents through direct contact and use of private surficial aquifer wells.

In 2004, monitoring wells were installed, sampled and found to be below DEP limits. The site was delisted in July 2006.

Response Strategy and Status

Ecology & Environment, Inc. (E&E) conducted a groundwater assessment at the site between September and December 2004, under contract with DEP. Four monitoring wells were installed; three permanent wells (MW001 through MW003) and one temporary well (MW004). MW004 was installed as a temporary well in the former soil excavation area due to space limitations at that location (Mr. Pearson's backyard). Groundwater samples were collected from each of the four wells and analyzed for total mercury using EPA Method 7470. Mercury was detected in the groundwater samples collected from MW002 and MW004 at 0.0914 µg/L and 0.705 µg/L, respectively. Both of these concentrations are well below the mercury GCTL of 2.0 µg/L. No mercury concentrations were detected in the groundwater samples collected from monitoring wells MW001 and MW003.

The September 7, 2005 Site Rehabilitation Completion Report (SRCR) recommended No Further Action (NFA) at this site. Based upon the SRCR as well as the October 11, 2004 E&E Data Report and the December 20, 2004 E&E Data Submittal, DEP issued a Site Rehabilitation Completion Order (SRCO) on July 25, 2006, approving No Further Action (NFA) for this site.