

USDA Experimental Station
Okeehetee Park South
7500 Forest Hill Boulevard
West Palm Beach, Florida
County: Palm Beach
District: Southeast
Site Lead: Bureau of Waste Cleanup
Approved for Cleanup: March 30, 1989
Delisted: July 8, 1990
ERIC ID # 3835
HWC # 062

Site Description and History

The USDA Experimental Station site was the location of a US Department of Agriculture experimental station from approximately 1960 to 1969 in Section 17, Township 44S, Range 42E at 26° 38' 21.3676" N, 80° 10' 15.4502" W. The site occupies approximately 50 acres within the former Whispering Pines State Park (now Palm Beach County's Okeehetee Park South). Storage of chlordane, diazinon and a soil fumigant for hookworm was observed shortly after use of the station was discontinued. The storage areas and pesticide containers had been severely damaged by vandals.

Threat

Soil samples taken in the vicinity of a dilapidated Quonset hut in May 1988 showed significant levels of endrin and DDT. No pesticides remained in storage at the site. No significant contamination was found and the site was delisted in July 1990.

Response Strategy and Status

In April 1989, an on-site meeting was held with the individuals who had reported the stored pesticides and with representatives of the USDA. An independent study of the site was completed by the county in September 1989. In October 1989, additional soil and groundwater samples were taken and, in December 1989, a draft Contamination Assessment Report was submitted to the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation (FDER, now DEP) for review. The report did not indicate significant levels of pesticides in soils or groundwater; however, lead was found in groundwater at levels exceeding Florida primary drinking water standards. Additional groundwater studies conducted in February 1990 showed only sporadic occurrences of lead exceeding standards in ground water. The final Contamination Report was received in June 1990. The site was delisted in July 1990.