

Florida Peach – Martin
State Road 25A, off Interstate Highway 75
Martin, Florida
County: Marion
District: Central
Site Lead: Bureau of Operations
Approved for Cleanup: June 11, 1987
Delisted: January 31, 1987
ERIC ID # 3840
HWC # 067

Site Description and History

The Florida Peach – Martin site is located approximately six miles northwest of Ocala and ½ mile east of I-75 in Section 12, Township 17S, Range 21E at 29° 01' 28.1027" N, 82° 09' 33.1865" W. The site was first identified by the Marion County Health Department in February 1983. In subsequent visits to the site, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) and the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation (FDER, now DEP) documented that a variety of agricultural chemicals had been abandoned by the bankrupt Florida Peach Corporation. Agency personnel found that in an open shed at the site, there were damaged and undamaged bags of parathion sulfur product. Two damaged 50-pound bags of Dithane M-45 were also found. These materials were removed from the site in April 1983 under the direction of the FDACS. Other agricultural chemicals noted at the site by the FDER included several drums of spray oil and calcium polysulfide fungicide (sheep dip). Small amounts of parathion sulfur powder spillage and several empty containers indicated 435 ppm diazinon, traces of endosulfans, and 5,020 ppm oil and grease. The shed is in an area with an unoccupied mobile home, an abandoned barn, and a well house.

Threat

The onsite well was being used by people in the vicinity of the site who periodically filled jugs there. The well was put out of service by FDER in August 1986. A removal action was performed in 1984 – 1986 and the site was delisted in 1987.

Response Strategy and Status

In December 1984, the remaining pesticide powder was removed from the shed floor under the direction of the FDER.

A contamination assessment during August 1985, indicated that pesticide contamination of the surface soil was restricted to two areas. Elevated parathion levels (1.8 mg/kg) were detected on the pesticide storage shed floor, whereas paraquat (1.24 mg/kg) was detected northeast of the shed as well as on the shed floor (1.88 mg/kg). In addition, a very high level of paraquat (28.2 mg/kg) was detected near the well house door, and it was also noted in soils (10 µg/kg) approximately 100 feet south- southeast of the well house. Endosulfans were also found in both locations, but at negligible levels. Well water samples were uncontaminated.

Further contamination assessment was conducted in March 1986, to delineate the extent of the remaining soil contamination and confirm well water quality. The onsite well was found to be clean and has been deactivated due to the abandonment of the property by its owners. Additional soil was excavated and stored on site in July 1986, pending authorization for disposal at Pinewood, South Carolina hazardous waste facility. Authorization was delayed due to changes in RCRA regulations. Transport to Pinewood was completed in December 1986. The site was delisted in January 1987.