

Barker Chemical Company (Former)
US Highway 17-98 and County Road 40
Inglis, Florida
County: Levy
District: Southwest
Site Lead: Waste Cleanup Program
Accepted for Cleanup: November 21, 2012
ERIC ID # 3958

Site Description and History

The former Barker Chemical Company (BCC) facility operated as a phosphate manufacturer from approximately 1904 to 1931. The former BCC facility is comprised of several dozen parcels over an area of approximately 124 acres, located mainly southwest of the intersection of US Rt. 17-98 & CR 40, near the Withlacoochee River Bridge, in Inglis, FL, Township 17S, Range 16E, Sections 02 & 03, at Latitude 29° 01' 47.4097" N, Longitude 82° 40' 27.8178" W. The number of parcels, area of the site, etc. are subject to change. The site used waste pyrite cinder for road construction and to keep grass from growing. This resulted in widespread soil contamination. The BCC facility went out of business and the property was subdivided into residential lots the mid-1930's. Due to the age of this site, operating records no longer exist and much of the information about the site is anecdotal.

Threat

As a result of the former phosphate processing facility and the use of the pyrite cinder for road base, the site has arsenic and lead soil contamination.

Response Strategy and Status (December 2020)

The Barker Chemical site has been the subject of a major EPA removal action which has taken place over a several year-long period. In spite of this, available information indicates that soil contamination continues to be present at this site in excess of Florida Soil Cleanup Target Levels for arsenic and lead. The site was referred to the Waste Cleanup Program and was accepted for State-funded cleanup on November 21, 2012.

In February 2015, the site was assigned to a DEP project manager and GHD Services Inc. was assigned as the remediation contractor. A Site Assessment Workplan and Pre-Assessment Evaluation was reviewed and approved by the DEP in September 2015. Because the site area is so large and there is extensive assessment and remediation information, the assessment and future remedial actions will be performed in a phased approach.

In October 2015, an initial phase of soil sampling began. During this phase, 40 residentially zoned parcels were selected and prioritized for additional assessment. Based on this data sites were prioritized for Interim Source Removals (ISRs) also referred to as limited soil excavations.

In July 2016, GHD submitted a Remedial Strategy Plan. This plan was approved by the department, and outlines the strategy for continued assessment and ISR prioritization. In 2016, two ISR were completed and three ISR proposals were approved by the department.

As of December 2020, the Waste Site Cleanup Section (WSCS) has tasked over \$5.4 mil to complete assessment of 64 and remediation of 20 properties resulting in the removal of over 40,000 tons of contaminated soil. The FDEP will continue remediation efforts at the Barker Chemical Company site on remaining properties where known soil contamination is present. The remaining work is estimated to occur over the next 3-5 years at an estimated cost of \$3-4 mil.

Schedule

ISRs are expected to be conducted at BCC034, BCC113, BCC035, and possibly BCC020 during 2021.