



## WASTE CLEANUP SITE FACT SHEET

Spring/Summer 2005

### This Fact Sheet Contains:

- *Contact Information*
- *Introduction*
- *Waste Cleanup Site History*
- *Waste Cleanup Site Information*

### CONTACTS

*To answer your questions, the DEP and DOH have established two toll-free information lines available Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. (EDT).*

#### *For Site Cleanup questions:*

*Florida Department of Environmental Protection Toll-Free Information Line  
1-866-282-0787*

#### *For Health-related questions:*

*Florida Department of Health Toll-Free Information Line  
1-877-798-2772*

### *Introduction*

Safeguarding the health of Florida's residents and the environment is a priority for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). To protect natural systems and safeguard public health, the State is

cleaning up sites impacted by industrial waste.

The State of Florida has aggressive waste assessment and cleanup programs to address historical pollution. When examining a site, DEP scientists and engineers assess the soil and groundwater to determine if there is any pollution present, and if so, at what levels.

DEP has identified areas of groundwater and soil pollution in your community, which may contain by-products commonly associated with gas stations, drycleaners or other waste facilities.

This fact sheet includes information about the Department's programs to clean up soils and groundwater pollution caused by petroleum, drycleaning solvents or other hazardous waste.

### *What is DEP?*

DEP is the state's principal environmental agency. The agency's mission is to *protect, conserve and manage Florida's environment and natural resources.*

DEP's more than 3,000 employees:

- Enforce the state's environmental laws.
- Help to keep Florida's air and water clean.
- Clean up historical pollution.
- Regulate solid waste management.
- Promote pollution prevention.
- Acquire environmentally important land.
- Protect fresh and saltwater wetlands.
- Manage Florida's state parks, aquatic preserves, greenways and trails.

### *About DEP's Waste Cleanup Programs*

The purpose of DEP's waste cleanup programs is to protect Florida's pristine environment from past and future releases of petroleum, drycleaning solvents and other hazardous waste. These releases can occur

from accidental spills, leaks, poor maintenance practices and illegal disposal.

DEP and the Florida Legislature made the cleanup and prevention of pollution a priority with the creation of several state-funded programs to clean up sites and drinking water supplies impacted by pollutants. The programs were created to:

- Identify facilities contaminated by pollutants;
- Establish a trust fund to pay for cleanup costs; and
- Encourage facility owners and operators to report pollution.

For polluted sites not eligible for state funding, the party responsible for the pollution pays to clean up the site under DEP oversight.

### ***Water Supply Restoration***

DEP's Water Supply Restoration Program was created to restore or replace drinking water wells impacted by pollutants. This includes a temporary provision for bottled water, followed by a permanent, safe and reliable source of water through the use of carbon filters or by connecting affected residences or facilities to public water systems.

If you receive water from a municipal water supply, the likelihood of coming into contact with pollutants in the groundwater is minimal. Please contact DEP if you are concerned about your water supply.

### ***DEP's Site Assessment***

DEP oversees the assessment and clean up of polluted sites. The assessment identifies potential sources of pollution, site conditions, environmental concerns and a workplan for comprehensively investigating the site.

Using various techniques, engineers and scientists determine the types, concentrations and extent of pollution.

If contaminants are found at levels that pose a potential threat to public health and the environment, then the site must be cleaned up. Once the extent of pollution is determined, a cleanup plan is designed and implemented.

### ***Cleaning up the Site***

Sites are cleaned up in priority order using a risk based approach. Sites that are a greater risk for affecting the groundwater are given a higher priority.

The DEP follows regulations that specify how the assessment and remediation of polluted sites must be performed. These regulations are intended to provide a detailed, step-by-step process for assessing and cleaning up polluted sites, from the time that pollution is discovered to when DEP officially determines that no further action is required.

**DEP** will continue to actively monitor these sites to ensure that cleanup is conducted in a timely and thorough manner.

The **Department of Health** is monitoring these sites for threats to public health and is available to answer any questions concerning health effects from the pollutants found on sites.

### ***On-Line Information***

To learn more about DEP's waste cleanup programs, please visit our web site at: [www.floridadep.org/waste](http://www.floridadep.org/waste).

To learn more about DOH's environmental health services, please visit their web site at: [www.myfloridaeh.com](http://www.myfloridaeh.com).