



Business Plan 2007 – Division of Environmental Health - Florida Department of Health

Mission: “Promote and Protect Health”

Vision: “Healthier Floridians”

Goal: To prevent disease of environmental origin

Bureau of Community Environmental Health – HEALTH ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Trends and Conditions:

Over the past 17 years, Florida’s population has been among the fastest growing in the nation. Florida’s population increased from 12.9 million in 1990 to 16 million in 2000. This means that there are approximately **850 new residents in Florida each day**. As Florida’s population continues to expand, communities around hazardous waste site will increasingly seek health information from local, state, and federal governments.

Florida ranks second behind California in the number of Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) hazardous waste sites. As of November 2006, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) listed 627 CERCLIS hazardous waste sites in Florida. Of these CERCLIS sites, EPA has proposed or listed 50 on its Superfund National Priorities List (NPL). **Florida ranks seventh** among states in the number of sites on the NPL. EPA and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) continue to discover and investigate additional hazardous waste sites in Florida.

The Florida Department of Health has had a public health assessment cooperative agreement with the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) since 1989. Since then, Florida has produced over 200 hazardous waste site assessments. In addition, Florida has informed thousands of residents near hazardous waste sites, educated approximately 4,000 physicians or other health care professionals, and begun testing of individuals for evidence of exposure to toxic chemicals.

In the next year, we will continue to refine our existing program to better serve communities near Florida’s hazardous waste sites. Our primary focus will continue to be on site-specific activities, yet we will reserve part of our time, money, and effort for unanticipated non-site-specific activities. We also plan to continue to evaluate the impact of our program on communities we serve. We will use this information to increase our capacity, efficiency, and accountability in providing service to hazardous waste site communities.

Measures for this year’s business plan are similar to last year’s. These measures include meeting ATSDR work plan commitments and continuing to post hazardous waste site program information on the Internet.

Due to decreasing federal resources, we dropped one goal from last year’s plan: “Present environmental medicine training and resource materials for health professionals serving the hazardous waste site communities.”

Core Business Processes

- Assess the public health threat at non-federal Florida Superfund hazardous waste sites within one year of their proposal to the National Priorities List (NPL). Prepare reports.

Division Cost: \$525,651
Division Positions: 5.7 FTEs

County Program Cost: \$-0-
County Positions: 0

* Programmatic staffing and costs are rolled into Environmental Health General Revenue.



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- Assess the public health threat at non-NPL hazardous waste sites upon request by ATSDR, other state or federal agencies, or the public. Prepare comprehensive Public Health Assessments (PHAs) that address all public health threats and focused Health Consultations (HCs) reports that address specific health threats.
- Coordinate biological and environmental exposure investigations at sites requested by ATSDR or other state or federal agencies.
- Inform communities of the results of public health assessments, health consultations, exposure investigations, and other findings. Increase community awareness/knowledge about nearby hazardous waste sites, and where appropriate, decrease risk behaviors (contact with contaminated soil, water, etc.). Prevent or decrease community fears and misunderstanding by educating them on what Florida Department of Health and ATSDR do and do not do.

Short Term Objectives

By January 1, 2008:

- Finalize the Sand Castle soil health consultation report.
- Finalize and publicize the St. Joe Bay fish/scallop health consultation report.
- Finalize and publicize the W. LaSalle Street soil and ground water health consultation reports.
- Finalize and publicize the Barker Chemical public health assessment report.
- Recruit, hire, and train a new health assessor for the soon-to be vacant health assessor position.
- Finalize the American Beryllium public health assessment report and notify nearby residents via fact sheet, open house, and press release.
- Finalize and publicize the W. LaSalle Street indoor air health consultation report.
- Finalize and publicize the Hernando DPW public health assessment report.
- Wingate Disease and Symptom Prevalence Survey report: address peer review comment, finalize, and publicize.
- Finalize and publicize the Saufley landfill air monitoring report.
- Finalize and publicize the Coyote landfill report.

Long Term Objectives

By January 1, 2009

- Continue to meet annual ATSDR cooperative agreement work plan commitments.

By January 1, 2010:

- Secure state or federal funds for an additional hazardous waste site health assessor.



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Measure #1: By January 1, 2008, meet ATSDR hazardous-waste-site health-assessment cooperative-agreement commitments.

EH Division Objective		Strategy	Benchmark	Responsible Party	Target Date	Status
2	Use our data	Assess the public health threat at hazardous waste sites following federal ATSDR protocols.	ATSDR cooperative agreement document production goal of 12 health consultations reports, 7 public health assessment report drafts, or a combination thereof. Six month period: 1/1/07-6/30/07	Randy Merchant, Connie Garrett, Nancy Malaret, & Susan Skye	June 30, 2007	The public health assessment program is on schedule to meet its ATSDR cooperative agreement commitments for the six-month period ending June 30, 2007.

Measure #2: Continue public outreach efforts by posting on the Internet all hazardous waste site reports and fact sheets within two weeks of being finalized.

EH Division Objectives		Strategy	Benchmark	Responsible Party	Target Date	Status
Be the Best Communicators and Educators Promote and Support Training and Innovation Support Community Outreach	Decrease the time necessary to post draft and final public health assessment, health consultation reports, and fact sheets by training all team members how to post documents on the section web page.	Post public health assessment reports, health consultation reports, and fact sheets on the Internet within two weeks of being finalized.	Randy Merchant	June 30, 2007	Posting of web page updates by the bureau web master takes a number of weeks. Team members are training to make changes and postings themselves.	
	• Train four remaining team members to post documents on web page.	Completion of training	Lu Grimm, Elizabeth Tull, Susan Skye, and Randy Merchant	June 30, 2007	Currently two out of six staff members are trained to post documents	