



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

BILL NELSON
FLORIDA

December 1, 2017

The Honorable Scott Pruitt
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

I'm writing to update you on new developments related to a contaminated site in Fort Myers, Florida, about which I previously wrote to you in August. Recent reports show preliminary test results of arsenic levels up to five times higher than EPA standards.

Reports also indicate that the City of Fort Myers received test results more than two weeks ago. Yet once again, this information was not made available to the public. Residents deserve to know the level of contamination found on a site that's dangerously close to their homes, and they should receive official notice that this site is indeed contaminated as soon as it is detected.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has said the City of Fort Myers did not provide DEP with the preliminary report showing elevated levels of arsenic. This lack of coordination and communication between state and local officials gravely concerns me, which is why I am again encouraging EPA to intervene. Specifically, EPA should request the City's latest test results, which the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) directed the City to provide by December 1, 2017.

I believe it's worth stating again—no one should have to wait years for a known environmental hazard in their neighborhood to be cleaned up, especially when local and state officials are well aware of the problem. I understand full assessments may not be completed until January but that detailed preliminary test results are currently available. If this is accurate, residents should not have to wait months for all testing to be completed when answers to their questions already exist.

I appreciate your prompt consideration of this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Nelson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.