



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

South District
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Rick Scott
Governor

Carlos Lopez-Cantera
Lt. Governor

Noah Valenstein
Secretary

November 28, 2017

Mr. Saeed Kazemi, City Manager
City of Fort Myers
2200 Second St.
Fort Myers, FL 33901
skazemi@cityftmyers.com

Dear Mr. Kazemi:

We understand that the city now has preliminary data which indicated elevated arsenic levels in one or more of the six monitoring wells of the City's South Street property.

At this time, the Department has still not been provided the preliminary report of these results. Please provide a copy of the preliminary results by Friday, December 1, for our review to inform our ongoing oversight of the City's assessment of the site. We also request the results obtained from the groundwater flow analysis conducted during the sampling event.

We have received the City's notice for the planned installation of four additional monitoring wells. We agree these wells will aid in the determination of any other potential offsite sources that may have contributed to the elevated monitoring levels, and insist the City will install them as expediently as possible. Please provide a minimum of a week's notice prior to sampling as the Department will conduct split sampling with the City on the next groundwater sampling round of ten wells (six original locations, four new). Furthermore, should the Department locate any existing groundwater wells that will aid in the determination of any potential offsite sources, the Department urges the City to sample those wells to expedite the assessment process.

The Department remains available as needed as the City works to amend its assessment plan and to working closely with the City to ensure that all aspects of the plan are achieved once it is finalized and approved.

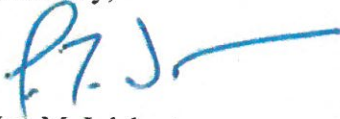
It is our understanding that the soil sampling is being conducted at this time and the results will be available in early January. Please keep us updated with the analysis process. We are aware that the City has lost its Communication Director, and the information flow from the City to the general public has languished. As a result, the site assessment and cleanup have lost a sense of transparency, both with the Department and the community at large.

The Department cannot emphasize enough the importance of reaching out to area residents to keep them informed of the ongoing assessment work, provide additional opportunity for public input and determine the eventual post clean-up use of the site. We request that you keep the Department regularly updated with these efforts.

We also request an update on the City's efforts to respond to resident concerns obtained during the public meeting held Aug. 1, 2017, and your plans to communicate results from the ongoing assessment as they become available.

While we acknowledge the City is following the appropriate protocols in conducting the assessment originally presented to the Department, we are concerned about the City's lack of communication with us and all other stakeholders. We expect to receive all existing sampling results by December 1, and continue to stress that the City must keep the community updated on progress and share results throughout the assessment and cleanup processes, and future use plans as they are developed.

Sincerely,



Jon M. Iglehart
Director of District Management

JMI/rcd

cc: Jennifer Carpenter
Dee Ann Miller
Lauren Engel