



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

DEC 28 2017

The Honorable Bill Nelson
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

Thank you for your December 1, 2017, letter to Administrator Pruitt concerning a contaminated property in Fort Myers, Florida. Your letter was referred to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 4 office in Atlanta, Georgia, for response.

As expressed in our September 18, 2017, letter to you, my staff has continued to be in contact with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the City of Fort Myers monitoring the progress on the assessment and cleanup of this property. The City of Fort Myers is continuing to implement the plan as scheduled that the FDEP approved on July 25, 2017. The EPA has been assured that there are open, active channels of communication among the City, the FDEP South District Office and the FDEP Division of Waste Management.

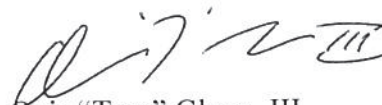
The preliminary results from recent well sampling were sent to the FDEP promptly following a request for these results. The results you requested can be viewed by going directly to the City's website, www.cityftmyers.com, and clicking under the South Street Environmental Assessment link at the bottom of the home screen. The City of Fort Myers has established a direct link to information at www.3348SouthStreet.com, which contains project documents, maps, press releases and detailed weekly updates.

The City recently requested permission to install additional wells to help with the understanding of the groundwater conditions. In early December, the FDEP approved this request and the wells have been installed and have been sampled. The soil/sludge sampling and this additional well sampling data is not yet available. Once it is available it will be posted to the web links provided above. The City is planning a public meeting to present this data and discuss the site in January 2018.

Based on the information currently available, the EPA believes that the FDEP and the City of Fort Myers are conducting both technical work and public outreach at the Site in an appropriate manner. For more information about the environmental site assessment you can contact Mr. Richard Thompson at the City of Fort Myers at (239) 321-7630. The point of contact for additional information on assessment and cleanup at the FDEP for this Site is Mr. Mike Halpin, who can be reached at (561) 681-6679.

If you have questions or need additional information from the EPA, please contact me or Allison Wise, in the Region 4 Office of Government Relations, at (404) 562-8327.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Onis 'Trey' Glenn, III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the Roman numeral "III" clearly visible at the end.

Onis "Trey" Glenn, III
Regional Administrator

Enclosure



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SEP 18 2017

The Honorable Bill Nelson
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

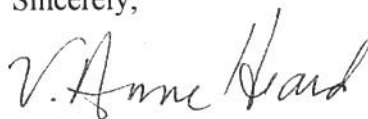
Thank you for your August 11, 2017, letter to Administrator Pruitt concerning the Home-a-rama property in Fort Myers, Florida. Your letter was referred to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 4 office in Atlanta, Georgia, for response.

The EPA is aware of the environmental conditions at this property and the current and past efforts by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the City of Fort Myers to assess and remediate the Site. We have spoken with FDEP and reviewed their soil and groundwater sampling, assessments and remediation decisions. Soil samples collected from the vacant land comprising the site had arsenic detected from 2.5 to 16 mg/kg, with an average concentration of 7 mg/kg. The Florida residential screening value is 2.1 mg/kg and the Florida industrial screening value is 12 mg/kg for arsenic. All detections on the property are within EPA's acceptable risk range. Because results indicated the presence of arsenic, FDEP required the City to conduct groundwater monitoring, as well as submitting a remedial action plan. The groundwater data suggested that arsenic was not moving offsite. The EPA has determined that this site does not qualify for federal action at this time because the environmental data collected from the site does not result in a hazard ranking score sufficient to support placement on the Superfund National Priorities List. We are available to provide technical assistance to the FDEP for the City of Fort Myers, as needed.

We have been assured that the FDEP is committed to working with the City of Fort Myers to ensure proper cleanup and management of the Site. The City of Fort Myers has amended their work plan for assessment of the Home-a-rama property to include soil sample collection at over 180 locations, which will be used to determine both the horizontal and vertical extent of lime sludge present on site. The city's approach will now include more properties, as well as expanding the assessment area to include non-city owned residential properties. This site characterization data will be used in the development of a cleanup plan. The FDEP is also committed to ensuring that the public is allowed to have input on the cleanup plan. The city has indicated this clean-up will involve the removal of the contaminated soil from the site, so the city will be required to comply with Florida's contaminated site cleanup criteria. Mr. Mike Halpin, at the FDEP, is the point of contact for additional information on assessment and cleanup at this site. Mr. Halpin can be reached by telephone at (561) 681-6679.

If you have questions or need additional information from the EPA, please contact me or Allison Wise, in the Region 4 Office of Government Relations, at (404) 562-8327.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "V. Anne Heard".

for Onis "Trey" Glenn, III
Regional Administrator