



Hyde Park Brownfield April 7 , 2008

Introduction

The Georgia Division of Public Health (GDPH) was requested to evaluate recent environmental sampling data collected in the Hyde Park neighborhood in Augusta, to determine if contamination was found at levels that may pose a potential health risk to the community. In response, GDPH conducted this Health Consultation under a Cooperative Agreement with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

To evaluate current soil, sediment, and groundwater conditions, GDPH reviewed the *Phase II Environmental Site Assessment and Site Reuse Feasibility Study*. The study was conducted in 2006 to estimate the extent of contamination and contamination migration in the Augusta Brownfields Study Area, which consists of portions of the Hyde Park neighborhood, the former Goldberg Brothers scrap yard, Fabriser Ranch/Campbell Recycling, and Richmond Recycling.

Environmental Sampling/Results

Soil and sediment samples collected from the Hyde Park neighborhood indicate several contaminants at levels that warranted evaluation. These contaminants either exceeded a soil screening level (lead) or a health guideline established by ATSDR. After further evaluation, it is determined that there is no health risk to the public from exposure to infrequent and low levels of contaminants in soil and sediment in Hyde Park. However, because lead was found in four soil samples at levels that exceed the screening level, remediation of these four areas is a prudent public health measure.

Soil samples collected from commercial properties within the Augusta Brownfields Study Area show elevated levels of several contaminants. The public should not access commercial properties with soil known or suspected to be contaminated (unfenced areas of the

commercial properties within the Augusta Brownfields Study Area).

Groundwater samples obtained from seven monitoring wells located throughout the Hyde Park neighborhood indicate one contaminant above health screening levels: arsenic. Arsenic was found in three off-site monitoring wells at slightly elevated levels (3.01, 3.18, and 5.37 parts per billion [ppb]). The lowest health screening value for arsenic is 3 ppb (well below the federal drinking water standard of 10 ppb). However, exposure to groundwater is not likely because residents are connected to the Augusta municipal water supply, and there are no reports of residents using private water wells in Hyde Park as their drinking water source. Because there is no suspected exposure pathway, no further evaluation was conducted for groundwater. In addition, since the maximum concentrations of contaminants found in groundwater samples from Hyde Park are below federal drinking water standards, there is no reason to restrict the use of groundwater in the area.

The report also indicates the presence of unused water wells on several of the Hyde Park residential properties. For safety and to protect groundwater resources, these unused wells should be properly abandoned.

Conclusions

This site poses **no apparent public health hazard** for exposure to contaminants in soil and sediment and **no public health hazard** for exposure to contaminants in groundwater in Hyde Park.

Recommendations

Based on the results of this Health Consultation, additional public health actions for the Hyde Park neighborhood are not warranted at this time. GDPH will provide health education to residents about preventing lead exposure and proper water well abandonment.