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AP PHOTO

Report: Dangerous Chemicals Found In Soil Here Near Mary Street Park

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Journal-Herald Editor

A soil analysis report prepared by Ana-Lab Corp., Kilgore, Texas, reveals that high concentrations of potentially deadly chemicals are present in the soil in the immediate vicinity of Mary Street Park.

Dated July 3, the report was prepared at the request of Joan McNeal of the Carswell Community Association. She said soil and water runoff samples were taken from the yard and sidewalk fronting a neighborhood home and sent to the lab for scientific analysis. Ms. McNeal owns a home on McDonald Street near Mary Street Park.

The Texas-prepared lab report shows the following chemicals to be present in the soil and groundwater in the vicinity of Mary Street Park:

Benzo(a)anthracene, 556 ug/kg; Benzo(b)fluoranthene, 827 ug/kg; Benzo(k)fluoranthene, 398 ug/kg; Chrysene (Benzo(a)phenanthrene, 671

ug/kg; Fluoranthene (Benzo(j,k)fluorene, 691 ug/kg; Phenanthrene, 378 ug/kg and Pyrene, 1520 ug/kg.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: All of the above mentioned values are in excess of allowable EPA limits. ug/kg represents micrograms per kilogram.)

Ms. McNeal said she became concerned when several Mary Street Park residents became inexplicably sick in recent months. Several people have died, she said.

The dangerous pollutants are believed to have originated at the Seven Out Tank Site, generally located at 901 Francis St. and 3 Folks St. in Waycross. The site has been owned by Seven Out LLC, a Florida-based limited liability corporation, since 2002.

Beginning in January 2003 until sometime in 2004, BCX Inc., a Georgia corporation, operated a storage treatment facility for industrial wastewater at the site, according to a June 2008

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sport a victim from a train that derailed south of

Spars With National Gun Control Group

The ordinance exempts convicted felons, those who can't afford a gun and those who suffer from certain physical or mental disabilities, as well as anyone who consi-

derable," David Archer, a lawyer for the city, said. "I think it was a political statement that they made." City Manager Brandy Edwards con-

port for the right to bear arms. City officials referred all questions on the lawsuit to Archer, who said he was hired by the city's insurance company to

... Pollution

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settlement agreement between the Nassau County Board of Commissioners, Fernandina Beach, Fla., Seven Out PRP Group and the EPA.

Earlier, Nassau County had contracted with Seven Out LLC to neutralize wastewater from its landfill located near Callahan, Fla. Public hearings concerning the Seven Out site in Waycross were held at Fernandina Beach, Fla., after the closure of the Waycross site and its subsequent designation as a SuperFund site.

Inexplicably, no one from the City of Waycross, Georgia EPD or the EPA bothered to contact this newspaper or other south Georgia media. The residents of Waycross and Ware County were left in the dark.

According to former Waycross City Commissioner Janice Parks, the plant was supposed to be cleaning oil. "However, they were taking in hazardous waste from chemical companies located in Georgia and north Florida," she said in a press release prepared by the Carswell Community Association.

Some of the companies whose wastes were hauled to the Francis Street site represent a veritable who's who of corporate America, including Fujifilm Hunt Chemicals USA, Georgia-Pacific LLC, South Carolina Electric & Gas, and Tecumseh Products Co., among many others.

"They were treating the hazardous wastewater and pulling the chemicals out of the water, then sending the treated water into the Waycross city waste treatment facility," she said.

On March 1, 2004, the City of Waycross terminated the plant's permitted connection to the

city's wastewater plant. But the Waycross facility continued to accept wastewater "even after its connection to the Publicly Owned Treatment Works was severed," the 2008 settlement agreement said.

A Florida Secretary of State's Office document dated August 19, 2002 lists Ferrell T. Carden of Jacksonville, Fla., as the "managing member of Seven Out LLC.

Additional business partners included J. Allen Bryson of Waycross, Jack Quick, Alex Sutor, Jack Sisson, Spencer Ingram and Malory Horne, all of Tallahassee, Fla.

It is unclear at this juncture if BCX and Seven Out LLC share the identical same management. But as of November 20, 2011, Richard L. Maguire of Jacksonville was listed as Seven Out PRP Group's chairman.

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) in Atlanta called in the U.S. Environmental Protection Division (EPA) on January 21, 2005 to "contain the overflow and spillage of an industrial wastewater/rainwater mixture from open tanks and the secondary containment area at the (Seven Out LLP) site."

The EPA reported that it stabilized the tanks and the secondary containment walls and then pumped, treated and disposed of approximately 350,000 gallons of liquid waste.

"Sampling and analysis of the waste in the tanks revealed that it contained acetone, benzene, sulfuric acid and sodium hydroxide, among other corrosive, hazardous wastes and hazardous substances..." the EPA reported.

At a cost of \$250,000, the wastes were removed and transported to hazardous waste treatment facilities located at Baltimore, Md.,

Jacksonville Fla., and Valdosta.

Terry Stilman of the EPA reported that when his team arrived at the Waycross site on January 27, 2005, they discovered that the site was abandoned, unsecured and open to passersby on Francis Street.

He said the approximately 41 tanks contained an estimated 450,000 gallons of wastewater — wastewater that had included Acetone, benzene, sulfuric acid, sodium hydroxide and "other hazardous constituents" when the tanks were tested one year previous on August 23, 2004.

This 450,000 gallon figure is a major concern, since the June 2008 settlement agreement between the parties mentioned under "Findings of Fact" that these 41 tanks contained "approximately 350,000 gallons of liquid waste."

Where did that 100,000 gallons of untreated wastewater go?

That same 2005 report states, "The tanks are uncovered and overflowing and some are within a secondary containment wall that is overflowing to a drainage ditch that leads to an unnamed creek."

That "unnamed creek" is none other than the city's fabled drainage canal, a portion of which flows directly through Mary Street Park and throughout much of the City of Waycross.

What's more, the EPA's 2005 report states, "Area rains have filled secondary containment and overfilled on-site tanks, causing a release to an off-site creek."

Ms. McNeal said she has been in contact with the Georgia EPD in Atlanta. She said the state agency told her it will send an investigative team to Waycross next week.

... Naval Academy

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Academy, after a ceremony led by Chesapeake Bay, it stands on what Corps. Later the naval officer during the American Revolution.

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