

BAYOU TEXAR GROUNDWATER QUALITY STUDY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



In March 2017, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWMD) reached out to Bayou Texar community residents to provide information on additional steps being taken in the state's ongoing groundwater assessment efforts in the area.

Due to known historical groundwater contaminants in the Bayou Texar area, DEP and the NFWMD implemented controls to restrict consumptive, irrigational and recreational use of groundwater. As part of ongoing monitoring, and to identify potential additional contamination sources, DEP will conduct private irrigation well sampling in the area in April 2017.

Am I safe?

Yes. As a result of ongoing efforts, site contamination does not currently pose a threat to people living and working nearby. Residents in the area are served by a public water utility, who is providing a safe drinking water supply.

What is the source of the historical groundwater impacts?

The department is aware of groundwater contamination in the area resulting from operations at the Agrico Chemical Company and Escambia Wood Treating sites. The 35-acre Agrico Chemical Company site was a former fertilizer manufacturing facility from 1889 to 1975.

The Escambia Wood Treating Company site, is located less than 1,000 feet to the northwest of the Agrico site, and includes the 26-acre former facility where the Escambia Wood Treating Company manufactured treated wood products from 1942 to 1982.

Additionally, the department has identified other historical commercial and industrial activities that occurred in the area, which could also be potentially impacting the groundwater. This study will help us evaluate and understand groundwater quality in the area.

Why is more assessment needed?

While all residents are served by a public water supply, some residents do have irrigation wells in use. Many of these wells have been in use for more than 20 years and this new data will provide important updated groundwater quality information to continue to protect residents and guide ongoing remediation efforts for these sites.

What measures are in place to ensure protection of the public?

Since the Agrico Chemical Company and Escambia Wood Treating sites were originally placed on The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) federal Superfund program's National Priorities List (NPL), EPA, DEP and the NFWMD have been working together to ensure protection of nearby residents.

DEP and NFWMD implemented controls to restrict both consumptive, irrigational and recreational use of groundwater in the area.

In addition, by monitoring groundwater, inspecting the sites, implementing institutional controls and undertaking five-year reviews, EPA and DEP are ensuring that the final remedies continue to be protective of human health and the environment.

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What will you be testing for?

In addition to known chemicals associated with the Agrico and Escambia Treating sites, wells will also be tested for contaminants associated with other known industrial or commercial activities in the area. A copy of the department's sampling plan is available at <https://depnewsroom.wordpress.com/bayou-texar-groundwater-quality-study/>.

What if I have an irrigation well?

You do not have to stop using your well. However, you can volunteer to have your well tested if you would like. If your well is selected, we will be happy to set a convenient time for DEP to collect a sample from your well. In addition, DEP will provide you results and will be available to explain the results and answer any questions you may have.

How can I remain informed about this study?

DEP has developed a webpage (<https://depnewsroom.wordpress.com/bayou-texar-groundwater-quality-study/>) where information about this study will be shared as it becomes available.

Additional background on the Agrico Chemical Company and Escambia Wood Treating sites:

For more information on the Agrico Chemical Company Superfund site: <https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0400818>

For more information on the Escambia Wood Treating Superfund site: <https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0400573>