

3405 NW 6th St.  
Gainesville, FL 32609

March 5, 2010

Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 4 Office  
Atlanta Federal Center  
61 Forsyth Street, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30303-3104

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing on behalf of the Protect Gainesville's Citizens organization, in support of their application for an EPA Technical Assistance Grant.

My husband and I purchased our home in the Stephen Foster Neighborhood in 1999, without knowing that our property was situated near a designated superfund site. The first indication that something was amiss came in the form of a vaguely worded letter from Beazer Inc. and Koppers reassuring us that clean up was still on their agenda. This led us to further investigation of the extent of the problem, and furthermore, to a baffling array of conflicting technical paperwork. We found documentation assuring us that testing had been done and that the surrounding area was only minimally contaminated, followed by other paperwork refuting both the testing methods and the narrow range of area that was sampled. We are presented with plans for clean up and waste containment whose fine print seems to suggest that it will only be cleaned to a level that renders it safe to cover in asphalt and house a high rise or strip mall. What does this standard of remediation mean to the adjacent neighborhood? What is the current level of contamination in this community that has been receiving the run off and dust from the site for decades? What is the threat to our aquifer? And the most important question; how does Beazer Inc. plan to address these issues?

These questions are not currently being answered in a manner that is readily understandable to the public. Some of them are not being answered at all, but rather being neatly avoided using obfuscating jargon. The EPA Technical Assistance Grant would provide the essential translation necessary to allow Gainesville's citizens to become more involved in the decision making process that surrounds the site clean up; a process that has the potential to affect our health, well being, and city resources for years to come.

We bought a home with a large yard to raise gardens, pets, and children, and we are looking for the means to determine the safety of our property, and to protect our city's resources in the coming years.

Sincerely,  
Dana Goble