

THE ACREAGE CANCER INVESTIGATION INFORMATIONAL TIMELINE

May 13, 2009	The Florida Department of Health (DOH) receives an email from a parent in the Acreage to Dr. Hopkins, acting State Epidemiologist in the Bureau of Epidemiology. The parent stated she had questions about cancer and how could she request a study.
May 14, 2009	Letter sent to parent from Dr. Sharon Watkins, DOH Senior Environmental Epidemiologist, acknowledging inquiry and includes a request for more information, and a form to provide information for "cancer concern" inquiry.
May 25, 2009	DOH receives response form from a parent with requested information from letter of 5/14/2009 and the inquiry begins.
June 2009	Dr. Sharon Watkins and staff begin the task of collecting initial data specific to the Acreage for analysis; confirmation and verification of patient information on patient listing forms; extraction of data from Florida Cancer Data System in which over 1,300 cases of cancer are identified; geo-coding of addresses within the Acreage; determining population for the Acreage using data from 850 census blocks ; contacts with Palm Beach County Planning and Zoning, and Palm Beach County Property Appraiser Offices to understand population and property records.
June 2009	Initial contact to the Department of Environmental Protection and Palm Beach County Environmental Public Health, regarding possible environmental contamination sites, any drinking water test results or known issues in the area.
July 2009	Continue to analyze data and continue to perform literature review. Initial contact with leading pediatric cancer expert Dr. Melissa Singer, Pediatric Oncologist and expert on epidemiology of pediatric brain cancers; contact with CDC and the Agency for Toxic Diseases & Substance Registry (ATDSR) and the Childhood Brain Tumor Foundation in Maryland.
July 9, 2009	DOH responds to Representative Carl Domino that investigation is underway into potential cancer cluster outlining procedure and progress.
July 15, 2009	Dr. Alina Alonso addresses a Community Meeting at the Wellington Mall regarding investigation of potential cancer cluster stating concern for the sick children and explaining the painstaking work that must be done to investigate.
July 26, 2009	EPA sends letter to Dr. Sharon Watkins that EPA and DEP reviewed their databases and found no known contamination sites or releases that could be a source of contamination for the Acreage.
July 30, 2009	First Acreage Update Public Meeting at the Clayton Hutcheson Center explaining the steps of the initial investigation.
August 4-8, 2009	Palm Beach County collects soil, and groundwater samples at two public schools, DEP collects water samples from 49 private wells in a 36 square mile area, and the Seminole Improvement District water treatment plant.

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August 26 – 27, 2009	After reviewing the preliminary findings of the sampling, DEP conducted additional water quality sampling. The additional samples included all five water supply wells and two treated water locations at the Seminole Improvement District water treatment plant (only one of the five water supply wells was sampled in the preliminary round), 10 private residential drinking water wells and nearby canals in the area. With this additional sampling, DEP had tested all wells providing raw (pre-treated) water to the Seminole Improvement District water treatment plant as well as the finished treated water that is distributed to customers. Findings revealed that the water treatment plant finished water is in compliance with DEP's regulatory requirements.
August 27, 2009	Public forum with the Indian Trail Improvement District at Seminole Ridge High School regarding the public water system.
August 25, 2009	Date of CDC Letter reviewing draft Level I report concurring with findings, limitations and recommendations of the initial investigation.
August 28, 2009	DOH releases initial findings in Acreage pediatric cancer review investigation including recommendation to get updated population numbers and to interview case families.
September 2009	DOH and PBCHD consults with CDC and the ATDSR to identify templates from previous cancer investigations, methodologies used, and customization of information to best relate to local concerns.
September 9, 2009 - Present	DOH Environmental Health Staff responds to a reported contaminated spill site in the area of concern. The site included several old fuel (gasoline and diesel) storage tanks, equipment, and trash. The property was reportedly in foreclosure. The initial site visit was conducted by the DOH Environmental Health's Water Programs and the complaint has been forwarded to the Waste Program for further investigation and action. (Complaint is still open but site is being progressively cleaned; further sampling may be completed in the future but to date no link established in relation to elevated pediatric cancers.)
September 10, 2009	DOH/PBCHD Working Group meeting regarding study of elevated pediatric cancer rates, includes developing questionnaires, FAQs, Acreage investigation website updates; updates on Environmental Health investigations with DEP regarding possible contamination sites; DEP sampling; development of monthly teleconference with PBCHD, DOH and elected officials.
October 1, 2009	DEP Reports on Water Sampling Results of 49 private wells sampled (from August testing).
October 5, 2009	First of monthly conference calls between DOH, PBCHD, DEP and elected officials regarding update of Acreage Investigation.

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October 7, 2009	DOH Meeting with Representative Carl Domino to discuss findings to date and overall agenda for Oct 19 th community meeting.
October 15, 2009	Conference call with PBCHD and DOH regarding status of investigation: In this meeting discussion of difficulty getting information for updated population counts using FPL records. FPL requests additional resources to accommodate request and Property Appraisers Office requests for information to PBCHD/DOH still not fulfilled; Draft of detailed family interview questions finalized and sent to PBCHD.
October 19, 2009	Acreage Public Health Information Forum with DOH and coordinated with Representative Carl Domino at the Clayton Hutcheson Center discussing Level I findings and Level II steps to be taken.
October 22, 2009	PBCHD meets in response to feedback from the October 19th public meeting; PBCHD reviewed the list of laboratories providing well water testing previously posted on the PBCHD home page. The list is being replaced with two lists (Chemical & Radiological Labs). The updated lists posted on the PBCHD home page.
October 22, 2009	PBCHD Directors Meeting and DOH teleconference with Acreage Study progress includes identification of how new sources of population data and the recalculation of Standardized Incidences Ratios (SIRs) with updated population numbers will be utilized. Also PBCHD customization and finalization of detailed family questionnaires in progress.
November 2, 2009	Monthly conference call between DOH, PBCHD, DEP and elected officials regarding update of Acreage Investigation.
November 6, 2009	FDOH and PBCHD Directors Meeting and DOH teleconference with Acreage Study progress; development of detailed questionnaire document in conjunction with CDC and other medical, research study and cancer experts.
November 20, 2009	Detailed questionnaire being finalized and confirmed case interviews with families begin scheduling.
December 2, 2009	Monthly conference call between DOH, PBCHD, DEP and elected officials regarding update of Acreage Investigation.
December 3, 2009 – February 9, 2010	13 in-depth interviews and site surveys of case families.
December 4, 2009	FDOH and PBCHD Directors' Meeting teleconference, discussion and updates on individual family interview scheduling and commencement; draft of recalculated population figures being compiled and verified; radium FAQs being assembled.
December 18, 2009	Recalculation report review underway; Acreage investigation topic at PBCHD statewide environmental epidemiology webinar.
January 4, 2010	Monthly conference call between DOH, PBCHD, DEP and elected officials regarding update of Acreage investigation and recalculation of SIRs (Standardized Incidence Ratios).

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January 8, 2010	CDC responds to recalculation of SIRs Letter
January 25-27, 2010	PBCHD conducts Radon Testing in case family homes. Results were negative.
February 1, 2010	An apparent elevated rate of Pediatric Brain Cancer is confirmed. Monthly conference call between DOH, PBCHD, DEP and elected officials regarding update of Acreage Investigation releases findings. SIRS report
February 7, 2010	DOH meets with Representative Joe Abruzzo.
February 9, 2010	DOH public forum at Seminole Ridge High School explaining a cancer cluster definition and report the results of the Radon Testing.
February 12-14, 2010	DEP collected samples from 23 homes of untreated ground water from drinking water wells and samples from water that passed through a water treatment system or water softener, if the residence had treatment system. The homes included residences where cases of pediatric brain cancer have been identified as well as a number of other nearby homes to serve as a control group. DEP also collected treated water from the Seminole Improvement District water treatment plant and four homes as a follow-up to the first round of sampling.
February 18, 2010	External gamma radiation surveying begins by FDOH Bureau of Radiation Control. Inside residences and exterior properties are surveyed for gamma radiation levels. Survey includes measurements of water treatment system and inside room that matches up to system.
February 19, 2010	DOH consults with CDC to further investigation and determine best methods.
February 24, 2010	DOH works with DEP to designate control family residences for interviews
February 25, 2010	PBCHD posts list of NELAP certified labs that perform soil and radiological testing.
February 28, 2010	PBCHD adds interactive cancer study area map to website
March 1, 2010	Monthly conference call between DOH, PBCHD and elected officials regarding update of Acreage investigation.
March 2-4, 2010	DEP sampling teams will begin sampling soils at most of the homes where water samples were collected during the February 12-14, 2010 sampling event. Having both water and soil samples will allow DEP to evaluate environmental data from homes where cases of pediatric brain cancer exist as well as additional nearby homes which are serving as a control group.
March 2, 2010	Lease is signed by PBCHD and submitted to lessor for space for The Acreage Neighborhood Information Center.
March 3, 2010	PBCHD adds web form for residents to subscribe via email to updates on the Acreage Investigation.
March 9, 2010	DEP creates Acreage Investigation Information webpage
March 11, 2010	DOH issues FAQs posted to PBCHD website.

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March 15, 2010	DEP receives certified water sampling results.
March 22, 2010	DOH issues newsletter for residents of the Acreage.
March 22, 2010	DOH issues press release on External Gamma Radiation results .
March 24, 2010	DEP mails certified results to controls and families.
March 24, 2010	Acreage Community Focus Group holds first meeting.
March 25, 2010	The Acreage Neighborhood Information Center opens.
April 2, 2010	DEP releases water test results for 23 homes in the Acreage that shows no indication of agricultural or industrial contamination in the water and water quality is considered to be good.