



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta, GA 30333

October 27, 2010

Dr. Lisa Conti, Director
Division of Environmental Health
Florida Department of Health
4052 Bald Cypress Way, BIN A-08
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Dr Conti,

Thank you for consulting us and providing CDC the opportunity to review your investigation of childhood brain cancers in The Acreage community. My staff and I reviewed the following documents provided by the Florida Department of Health (FLDOH):

- FLDOH Acreage cancer review, Palm Beach County, August 2009
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FLDEP), Acreage investigation – water sample results, February 2nd 2010
- FLDEP, Summary of soil and drinking water sampling results for residence located in The Acreage, February, March and April 2010
- FLDEP Guide to understanding soil sampling results, July 19, 2010
- FLDEP Radon testing results
- FLDOH Acreage community case control data analysis, September 2010
- United States Environmental Protection Agency letter to Ms. Mary Jean Yon, director

The documents listed above provide results from environmental testing (drinking water and soil) for radon, heavy metals, pesticides and other potential environmental contaminants. In addition, they include results from an epidemiologic investigation to assess potential risk factors for brain tumors among children in The Acreage.

After thorough review of the documents listed above, we found that the investigation completed by the FLDOH was comprehensive and scientifically appropriate. Based on the data provided, we concur with the conclusion of the FLDOH that the investigation (including the case control study and environmental testing) did not reveal any potential risk factors for which exposure among cases was statistically significantly higher than exposure among the controls. We do not have any recommendations for additional epidemiologic studies or environmental testing at this time.

We hope that the extensive environmental testing and the case-control study have provided the residents of the Acreage with valuable scientific information to help allay their concerns about environmental contaminants in their community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mike".

Michael A. McGeehin, PhD, MSPH
Director, Division of Environmental Hazards and Health Effects
National Center for Environmental Health, MS-F-52
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Atlanta, GA 30333

cc: Dr. Lauren Lewis
Dr. Kanta Sircar