



# Department of Environmental Protection

Lawton Chiles  
Governor

Southwest District  
3804 Coconut Palm Drive  
Tampa, Florida 33619

Virginia B. Wetherell  
Secretary

## SITE INSPECTION REPORT

**OWNER/OPERATOR:** Ms. Fran Braaksma (Florida Waste Environmental Service)  
**MAILING ADDRESS:** 5218 St. Paul Street  
Tampa, Fl. 33619

**NAME OF SITE:** FWES Solid Waste Processing Facility  
**SITE ADDRESS:** same as above  
**CITY:** Tampa, Fl.

**INSPECTION DATE:** January 9, 1998

**PERMIT NO:** none

### REASON FOR VISIT:

- COMPLIANCE INSPECTION   X
- PERMITTING INSPECTION   X
- COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION

**PERSONS PRESENT:** Susan Pelz, Robert Butera, Jim Dregne (FDEP), Fran Braaksma, Alan Summers (FWES), Tom Brislin (Environmental Systems Management, Inc.)

### SUMMARY REPORT:

The purpose of this site visit was to assess the activities at the site with respect to the applicability of solid waste permitting.

When we first arrived, the facility owner/operator was not onsite. After about 10-15 minutes, we began to tour the site. Shortly thereafter, Ms. Braaksma arrived onsite to accompany us. First we observed a facility vehicle maintenance building. Ms. Braaksma explained that the facility accepts septic/sewage (i.e. restaurant grease, oil/water separator sludges) for processing. A facility sales pamphlet also lists lift station sludge, car wash sump sludges, and tank pumpings from "car-bus-truck washes, auto and truck service centers, and many other commercial facilities" as materials which are accepted and processed at their facility. They dump the sludges into a pit (in a small building at the rear of the property) and add sawdust to solidify the material. The material is then sent to Chambers' Landfill (Okeechobee) for disposal.

Just north of the vehicle maintenance building was a three-sided (apparently concrete) "containment area." Within the "containment area" was a 6000 (?) gallon tanker (which was in disrepair), and several 55-gallon drums. The east wall of the "containment area" had discharge ports. The discharges from the "containment area" was connected to a header pipe that reportedly was used to pump any spillage/liquids into a tanker for offsite disposal. However, the header pipe obviously had discharged liquids onto the ground (evidenced by the localized erosion) at the northeast corner of the "containment area." (see photos) Ponded water was observed within the "containment area." Some of the drums were

labeled "Non-Hazardous Waste" and some drums had no labels. When we asked what was in the drums in this area, Ms. Braaksma indicated that they were empty, and that the facility only manages grease and septic. A couple of the drums in the "containment area" were labeled as drill cutting fluid and investigation derived waste (IDW) from DOT Okeechobee.

We then began a lengthy discussion about what materials the facility was permitted to manage. Alan Summers joined us at the containment area, and was also explaining what materials they process at the facility (sump sludges, car wash separator sludges, petroleum contaminated materials, cleanup wastes from emergency response actions, antifreeze, etc.). We then went to the north portion of the site to inspect the processing building. Just south of the processing building, approximately 30 55-gallon drums were being stored outside the building on visquene. Some of the drums were labeled, others were not. Some of the drums were upside-down, others were upright. We asked what was in the drums. Ms. Braaksma stated that they were empty. We tried to move several of the drums and they would not easily move (indicating that they were not empty). Several of the drums were obviously leaking material onto the visquene, and in some cases onto the ground. The material which was discharging from many of the drums was a thick, black, tar-like substance which appeared to be a semi-solid asphaltic material. Some of the labels indicated that the drums were from Gardner Asphalt. Ms. Braaksma then admitted that the materials were from Gardner Asphalt, and were roofing compounds. We also noticed a couple of drums which were leaking (or had previously leaked) a silver, thin (not very viscous), liquid. Ms. Braaksma explained that this was also roofing material.

Some filter tanks and piping (carbon filter, clarifier and poly-tank), were also located outside of the processing building on the south side. Mr. Brislin (who had joined us approximately 45 minutes into the inspection) indicated that these were units that were existing at the site (apparently left by the former owners?) that were being considered for a proposed future wastewater treatment system at the site. Pounded water was observed throughout the drum storage area.

We then proceeded to the waste processing building. The building appeared to be a metal building with two bays, and (12-inch high?) concrete walls around at least a portion of the processing "pit". The metal walls of the building were in disrepair, and liquids were ponded in the waste. We observed a silver material similar to the material observed discharging from the drum outside, mixed with the other wastes in the pits. Some bags or otherwise indistinguishable debris was also mixed in the waste. Significant ponded water was observed along the north wall outside the building. A groundwater monitoring well was noted near the northwest portion of the property. Mr. Brislin indicated that there are four groundwater monitoring wells onsite (1-northwest, 2 at south part of site) that were installed for the company's internal own information. He indicated that the wells have been sampled once since installation.

After the tour of the site, we went back to the office to look at the paperwork. Specifically, we were interested in the Profiles and/or manifests for the silver material we observed discharging from the drums (which Ms. Braaksma insisted was roofing material). Mr. Brislin showed us some profiles/manifests from Gardner Asphalt. None of the records indicated a silver liquid. I asked to see analyticals for loads outbound to Chambers. After much searching, Ms. Braaksma could not find any of these records. Jim Dregne remained at the site looking at their records after Bob Butera and I left.

During the site inspection, we specifically told Ms. Braaksma and Mr. Summers that they were not permitted to accept or manage any solid waste materials, including those we observed onsite. Mr. Brislin explained that they would be applying for a used oil processing permit soon, and that the materials that they were handling would fall under that permit. We informed them that the materials we observed were not used oil, and they would need to get a solid waste management facility permit to manage those materials.

Since the date of our inspection, the Department has received information from Mr. Brislin concerning the operation and recordkeeping at the facility. The following comments pertain to issues raised in Mr. Brislin's January 15, 1998, letter.

1. HRS Septage Hauling permit. The "Certificate of Authorization Septic Tank Contracting" issued by the State of Florida Department of Health does not appear to address the hauling of septage, or the management of such materials at the processing facility.
2. Request to continue bulking food grease and lift station solids. The Department **does not** authorize this activity, at this time. The proposed activity requires a solid waste management facility permit. The facility does not currently have a solid waste management permit.
3. USA Waste letter dated January 9, 1998. The purpose of including this letter is unclear. However, it appears that the Chambers Okeechobee landfill will accept special wastes after "prior approval is obtained for each waste stream." This Special Waste Approval requires a "comprehensive description of the processes generating the various wastes... as well as certification... that none of the wastes..." are hazardous. During our site inspection, this documentation was not found.
4. HRS Memorandum dated September 20, 1995, from Dale Holcomb. The purpose of including this memorandum is unclear. However, the memorandum specifically states, "The Department of Environmental Protection which regulates the landfill will need to approve of the proposed activity. The mixing activity, if done off the landfill site would be subject to regulation by this department or DEP depending on the quantity of grease "treated" and the type of sewage treatment and disposal system from which the grease was removed." The requirement for a permit or authorization from DEP is very clear from this memorandum. Yet, the facility operator undertook the operation without such an authorization.

**DEFICIENCIES NOTED:**

1. Operating a solid waste management facility without the proper permit.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The owner/operator should cease accepting solid wastes. The owner/operator should remove and properly dispose of the solid waste materials.

**FDEP REPRESENTATIVE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Susan J. Pelz, P.E. Solid Waste Section

\_\_\_\_\_ Date Mailed to Facility

cc: Tom Brislin, Env. Systems Mgmt, 111 Flamingo Drive, Suite B, Apollo Beach, Fl. 33572  
Paul Schipfer, HCEPC  
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