

Posted on Thu, Aug. 25, 2005

Tallevast letter to Gov. Bush asks for help

DONNA WRIGHT
Herald Staff Writer

MANATEE - Tallevast residents want Gov. Jeb Bush's support for relocation.

But before they could get the letter in the mail, county, state and federal officials proposed their own ideas of how Tallevast residents could be moved out of harm's way from the toxins in their backyards.

The only player not in the queue is Lockheed Martin Corp., former owner of the old beryllium plant at 1600 Tallevast Road, the source of the toxic plume now known to cover more than 131 acres.

Manatee County is willing to facilitate a buyout of the Tallevast property owners if Lockheed Martin Corp. is willing to help relocate residents, County Administrator Ernie Padgett said Wednesday.

State Rep. Bill Galvano, R-Bradenton, has ideas for a legislative fix that might raise funds for a buyout and U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., sees an opportunity for the Environmental Protection Agency to get involved, if health officials define a clear risk for residents.

But a Lockheed official responding to residents' plans to request the governor's support for relocation, said there is no reason to uproot the historical community.

"Lockheed Martin Corp. wants to reassure the community members that they are not at risk living in Tallevast and there is no need to disrupt their lives for a relocation," said Gail Rymer, director of corporate and community affairs.

"The Florida Department of Health is conducting a health risk assessment for the Tallevast community," Rymer said. "It is my understanding that if they had found anything of concern that would require immediate action they would have done so. To date they have found nothing that requires such action."

Living with unknowns

But Padgett said the unknowns raise serious concerns that cannot be ignored.

"When you put together what is known about the plume and what is not known, it gives serious consideration that Lockheed, as the responsible party for cleaning up the contamination, should get serious about negotiations," said Padgett.

Testing and cleanup efforts will take years, Padgett said. In the meantime, residents must live with the unknowns. It makes sense, he said, to move them out of harm's way.

Padgett's plan, which he said he is proposing with the support of county commissioners, would result in a new industrial park.

He proposes that Lockheed purchase the 85 houses in Tallevast, then the defense giant could sell the properties for an industrial park, recouping its investment.

Commissioners have discussed similar options for an industrial park buyout in the past.

Padgett proposed the plan after reading a copy of the letter Tallevast leaders plan to send to Bush to enlist his support for relocation.

Family Oriented Community United Strong, an advocacy group for the neighborhood, wants Bush to visit Tallevast to discuss the relocation issue.

FOCUS leaders unintentionally sent their request to the media Wednesday prior to sending it to the governor.

The three-page letter to Bush blames county and state officials for ignoring the health risks posed by the toxins.

Mistrust has marked relations between Tallevast residents and Lockheed Martin and government officials for the past two years.

Russell Schweiss, spokesman for the governor's office, said that Bush has concerns for the community but his office would not comment until they have had a chance to review the letter, which they have not received yet.

Although Lockheed discovered the contamination leaking from the old beryllium plant in 2000 and informed county and state officials of the problem, no one informed residents, who did not learn about the toxins in their backyards until October of 2003. As the owner of the plant when the contamination was found, Lockheed has assumed responsibility for cleaning up the toxic mess.

Lockheed purchased the plant in a corporate buyout of Loral American Beryllium Co. in 1996. Loral operated the Tallevast facility for more than 30 years, making parts for nuclear weapons and missile guidance systems for the U.S. government.

Plume not a hazard?

In its most recent report to the Department of Environmental Protection, Lockheed said tests to date reveal that the plume is too deep to be a health threat to residents.

Moreover, the defense giant said only the five-acre factory site, now the home of Wire Pro Inc., needs to be remediated.

Tallevast leaders say Lockheed's conclusions are premature because the defense giant has not done adequate testing to know the true dimensions of the plume or the risks posed by vapor intrusion into their homes from the contaminated groundwater and soil.

FOCUS has twice in the past year demanded that Manatee County commissioners facilitate the relocation of their community to move Tallevast families out of harm's way.

"Our county commissioners will not step forward (as advised by their legal counsel) to help the community in relocation for fear of it being responsible/liable for the 'fallout' from the contamination," the letter to Bush states.

"Understandably, the community believes that the county as well as the state is liable and responsible for what has happened in some way," the letter continues. "We are residents of Manatee County, we pay county/state/federal taxes, and we abide by the rules and regulations of the county/state/federal government and feel that we should be treated justly."

Padgett agreed it is time for the county to act.

"I wish we could do something to encourage Lockheed to start talking about relocation so the area can become an industrial park - if that is what the residents want and it is a deal all parties can agree to," said Padgett.

"Tallevast leaders challenge people to put ourselves in their place and when you do you have to agree with them," said Padgett. "It is a very demoralizing and unsettling position they are in."

Tallevast residents may also get help on relocation efforts from Galvano and Nelson.

In Tallahassee, one possibility is to file a claims bill that, if passed, would require the state to "compensate citizens for some hardship they've endured," when current law "doesn't provide any immediate relief," Galvano said.

Galvano said he was researching how the process works and how many votes it might need. He said getting a claims bill through the Legislature would be a very challenging task politically because some lawmakers might be concerned that would set a precedent for state responsibility and open the door to a flood of claims.

Another possibility, Galvano said, is to direct a state agency in the budget to spend a certain amount of money for a certain purpose, such as relocating the Tallevast residents. But this, too, is no easy political task because it would require approval by first the Legislature and then the governor, who would have to be convinced not to veto a measure with such a localized effect.

Galvano said he has not yet discussed with Bush the possibility of relocating Tallevast residents.

Nelson said he would pursue federal assistance in relocation efforts "if the state and local health agencies say there is a long-term health problem."

Nelson said he would call upon the EPA to devise a relocation plan for the residents.

Stephen Majors, *legal affairs/politics reporter*, contributed to this report.

[Print This Article](#)[Back to web version](#)

BRADENTONHERALD.COM

Tuesday, Apr 5, 2011

Published: Wednesday, Feb. 09, 2011

Updated: Wednesday, Feb. 09, 2011

Plant fully dismantled in Tallevast

Final razing of old Loral beryllium building does little to console residents

By RICHARD DYMOND
rdymond@bradenton.com

MANATEE -- The infamous Loral American Beryllium Plant in Tallevast was fully dismantled Tuesday.

When the last piece of the last building was pulled apart and hoisted into a roll-off container for shipment to a safe spot, it left nothing but a concrete slab.

Gone was the building where men like Errol Darville of Tallevast worked with beryllium, an extremely heat resistant metal.

It was the solvents used in milling beryllium that would end up causing a 200-acre plume of contaminated groundwater, said Gary Cambre, a spokesman for Lockheed Martin Corp., the company that now owns the plant.

Lockheed Martin views Tuesday's historic dismantling as the beginning of a bright new chapter in Tallevast's history, a chapter where Lockheed can help restore the environment of Tallevast, Cambre said.

Some ideas Lockheed has for that bright chapter include improvements to the community center and new street lights, Cambre added.

But some Tallevast residents do not view the final dismantling of the beryllium plant as a positive sign.

For Robyn Darville, who lives a half block from the concrete slab and is the wife of Errol Darville, the only way closure could truly be achieved is if Lockheed Martin moves out all the residents.

"Do you think flowers and swing sets will make it better," Robyn Darville said of the plans to improve the community center. "The problem is still there. I don't care about flowers and swing sets and new windows. How can I still be happy? It's still the same place. The issues are still there."

Darville believes the groundwater contamination will be in the cement slab and is certainly in the ground under and around it.

Lockheed has committed to begin building a large water treatment facility on the concrete slab by spring, which will clean up the plume, although it will take 48 years, Cambre said.

Tallevast residents battled Lockheed Martin for five years in a lawsuit that recently reached a settlement.

"It didn't really matter to me that they tore the building down on Tuesday," Darville said. "It still doesn't make me feel better. The highest degree of the poison is in the cement slab and in the ground under it."

Darville was referring to the fact that the solvents used for milling the beryllium stored in cement containers underground would later leech into the groundwater.

Lockheed was careful to reduce dust in the air during the dismantling of the plant by using a "Dust Destroyer," a large water cannon that sprays a powerful mist that traps the dust, Cambre said.

But Tallevast residents were alarmed by the water it produced, Darville said.

"It was terrible," Darville said of the days since Dec. 1 when the dismantling began. "They should have moved us out during this process. I was standing outside and dust and water were flying everywhere. It was windy Monday and Tuesday. Cars got wet from the dust and water. If you were walking in Tallevast, you got wet."

Cambre said while there might have been water in the air, it was Manatee County tap water being fed into the Dust Destroyer.

"The water was drinkable that was used in the operation," Cambre said.

Lockheed Martin has spent \$30 million so far on its efforts to clean up the plant site, Cambre added.

Richard Dymond, Herald reporter, can be reached at 748-0411, ext. 6686.

© 2011 Bradenton.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.bradenton.com>

Commission rejects Tallevast rehabilitatio

B'don Herald 12/19/03

LISA MARIE LENTZ
Herald Staff Writer

MANATEE — After more than five hours of discussion Thursday, Manatee County Commissioners rejected the Salvation Army's proposed rehabilitation center, which Tallevast residents have fought for more than a year and a half.

During Thursday's special meeting at the Manatee Convention and Civic Center, commissioners told the Army what many residents had been saying all along — its proposed rehabilitation center did not fit the site. Commissioners voted 7-0 to deny the Army a zoning change and rejected its site plan.

More than 65 speakers signed up to address the commission and the 250-plus audience that came to watch the future or demise of the center unfold a drama that lasted

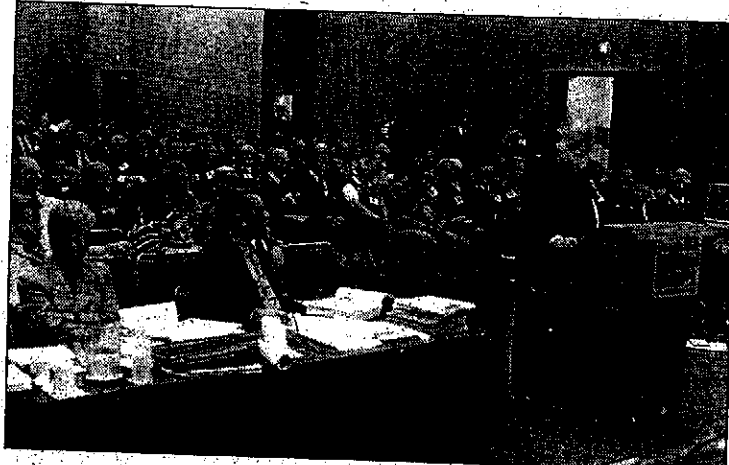
Amy Stein fell sick with a migraine and told chairman Jonathan Bruce she would be unable to make the meeting.

Bruce said the public hearing portion of the meeting would go forward, and Stein would view a tape at a later date and vote at the next commission meeting in January.

But at 9 p.m., Stein showed up, said she had seen almost the entire meeting on television, and Bruce declared action would be taken after all.

Among those speaking before the commission were two of the three planning commissioners who had voted in favor of the proposed facility. Paul Sayers and Marie Hastings testified on the Army's behalf, something Bruce characterized as happening "occasionally."

Stating the school board's case against the facility was board member Harry Kinnan,



Photos by ALEX DIAZ/The Herald

Maj. Bert Tanner of the Salvation Army in Sarasota speaks about the proposed rehabilitation center in Tallevast during a special county commission meeting at the Manatee Convention and Civic Center.

2002, the \$14 million center was proposed for the 37-acre parcel at the northwest corner

of U.S. 301 and Tallevast Road. The facility would have housed 100 participants and

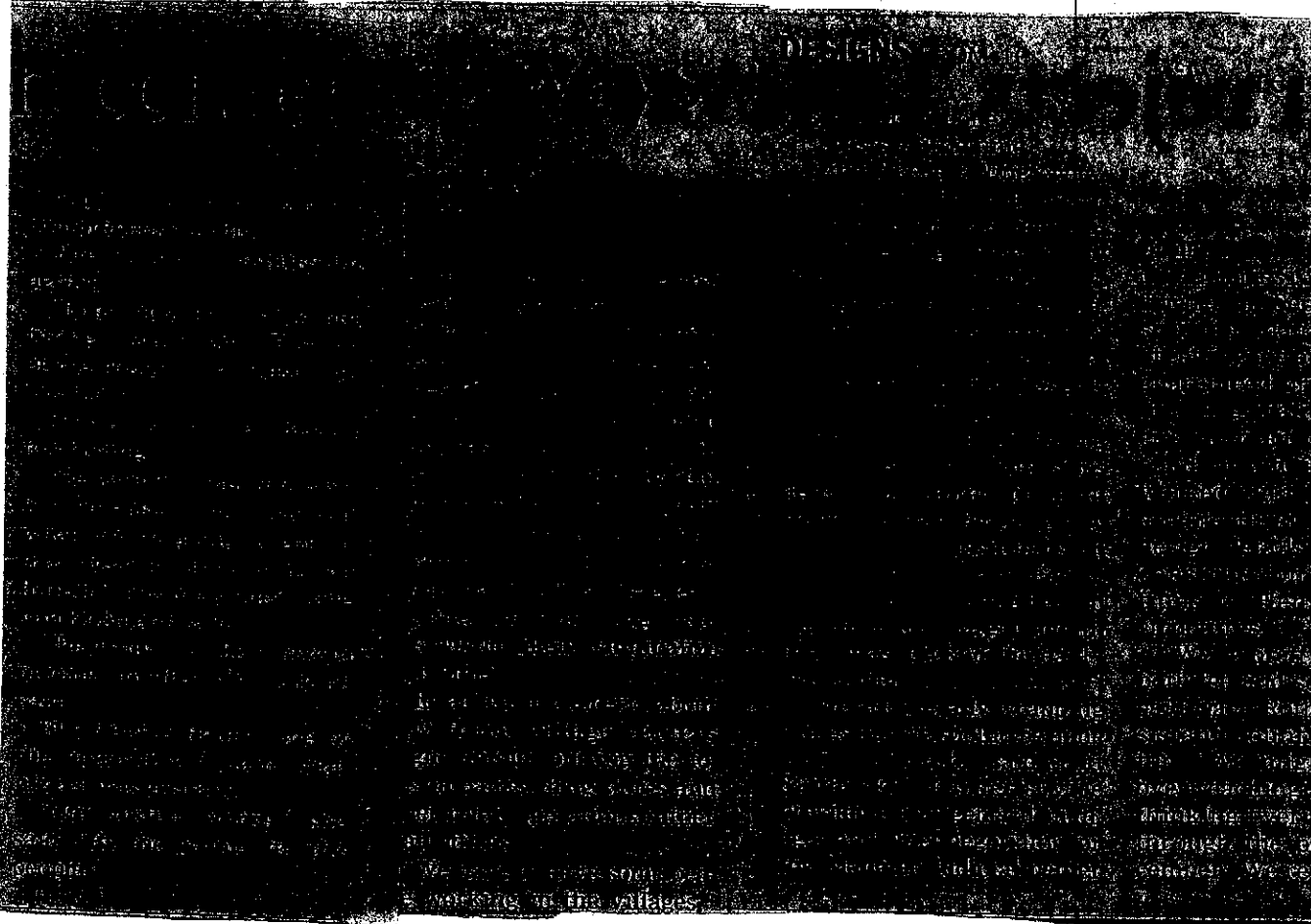
employed about 65 outside staff, according to Maj. David Atkins, administrator of the would-be facility.

But the proponents of the center were unable to overcome one fatal flaw — the plan's incompatibility with the county's comprehensive plan.

The site has a future land-use category of heavy industrial, and although the Army originally sought to change it to mixed use. That would allow for residential buildings needed to house clients of the rehab center; to expedite a public hearing, the request was dropped.

The planning department and later the planning commission ultimately recommended denial based on the fact that the request did not

JOE BARRETT



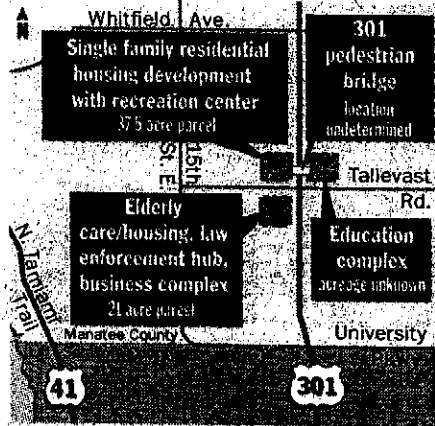
DESIGNS

THE GIFT OF
HOLI

Emboldened Tallevast group fights for future

B'kon Herald 12/31/03

'Imagine Tallevast' vision



KRISTEN SANTONI/The Herald

Fresh off defeating the Salvation Army's plans, FOCUS wants to chart a new path for community

LISA MARIE LENTZ
Herald Staff Writer

TALLEVAST — Minutes after the county commission unanimously denied the Salvation Army rezoning and site plan approval for an adult rehabilitation center, one of the center's chief opponents was already gearing up for the next struggle.

"Now we have to visit the future land

use category," said Wanda Washington of Concerned Citizens of Tallevast and Surrounding Communities. "I feel like this is only the beginning."

The future land use category of heavy industrial kept the Army off the 37-acre parcel at the northwest corner of Tallevast Road and U.S. 301. And as big a help as it was to Washington and her cohorts in that endeavor, it may be just as large an impediment to the goals of the community.

The vision of these residents of Tallevast, one of the oldest communities in the county, includes rebuilding the old and developing and merging with it a new community.

"We're looking for a developer to come in and tie the old and the new

together," Washington said.

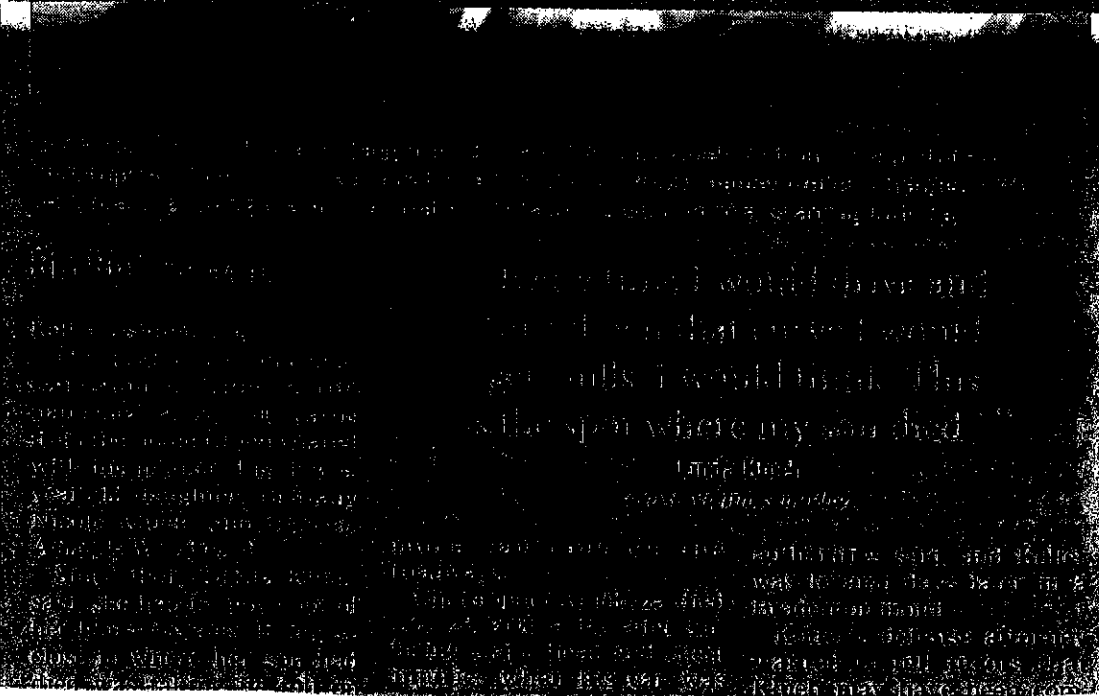
The visioning project began more than a year ago, when "Imagine Manatee" began grabbing headlines.

Washington and her group FOCUS (Family-Oriented Community United Strong) decided to localize it.

The faith-based, nonprofit group has circulated a survey among the residents to assess their needs and concerns, and has held two community meetings.

Washington said FOCUS would be working with county planners, who will help guide them with their Imagine Tallevast goals.

TALLEVAST TO 3C



uary 3, 2004, 1-3 p.m., at Griffith-Cline Funeral Home, Manasota Chapel, 1221 53rd Ave E. Service will be held on Saturday, January 3, 2004, 3 p.m. at Griffith-Cline Funeral Home Manasota Chapel. American Legion Kirby Stewart Post #24 will be officiating. Griffith-Cline Funeral Home, Manasota Chapel, is in charge of arrangements. Memorial contributions may be made to Judy Moore, 5215 18th Ave Dr W., Bradenton, FL 34209.

Born in Bethlehem, W. Va., Roy Junior Moore came to Manatee County from Shinnston, W. Va., in 1985. He was a retired roofer with Sutter Roofing Company of Florida in Sarasota for 22 years. He served in the Marine

Benjamin A. Thompson Bradenton

Benjamin A. Thompson, 63, of Bradenton, died December 29, 2003.

Private services to be held at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to American Lung Association, 3333 Clark Rd., Sarasota, FL 34240.

Survivors include his significant other, Gloria Murphy. Covell Cremation & Funeral Center is in charge of arrangements.

Dr. Jack C. Smeeton Sarasota (Manatee County)

Dr. Jack C. Smeeton, D.D.S., of Sarasota (Manatee County), died December 26, 2003.

LIST
tie M
5th
3422

TALLEVAST FROM 1C

"We know most of what we'd like to see at the four corners of Tallevast Road and new 301," Washington said. "However, we need to make sure we don't open the door for intruders either. We need to purchase or contract the property and change the zoning and future land use simultaneously."

Washington said the procedure changes to the land-use map would be undertaken immediately — "before we're forced to enter another fight like the ARC."

Using what Washington referred to as a "Caribbean" theme, Imagine Tallevast would encompass property at the northwest-southeast end

"We want what every other community wants, what every other community has. Why would we want less?"

Wanda Washington
FOCUS group spokeswoman

hub and business complex with restaurants, a pharmacy, bank and service station. Across U.S. 301, joined by an overhead crosswalk, would be an education complex.

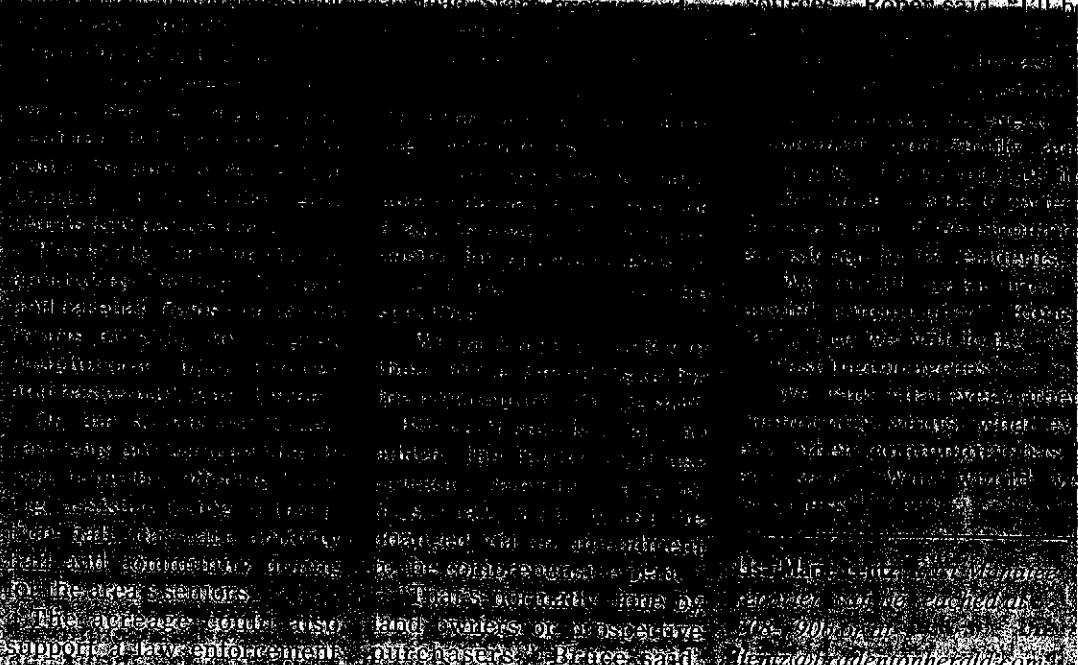
Here, Washington would like to see extensions of such colleges as Florida A&M, Bethune Cookman and Florida Atlantic's master's degree program.

The center might also contain student living quarters, a Head Start program,

"There is a process for county-initiated changes to the comprehensive plan, but we haven't gotten to that point yet."

Morrell Roper, a volunteer at the Tallevast Community Center who oversees fundraising, training and program development, will write grants to try to secure money for the ambitious project.

"We'll be seeking grant from government, corporate private and development sources," Roper said. "I'll be



Tallevast group seeks to zone in its own image

LISA MARIE LENTZ
Herald Staff Writer

MANATEE — Less than a month after the Salvation Army's request to build an adult rehabilitation center in their community was denied, Tallevast residents are asking to be heard again.

But this time it's proactive, not reactive.

A vocal and persistent presence during the Salvation Army's attempts to rezone the property at the northwest corner of Tallevast Road and U.S. 301, residents have decided to take the comprehensive plan by the horns, change it, and make the land into their vision of what it should be.

Members of FOCUS — Family-Oriented Community United Strong — met with county planners Friday to see what could realistically be accomplished and how to go about it.

The purpose of the meeting was to find out if the community's goals for the remaining land in their area fit the parameters of the county's comprehensive plan.

"If this is a piece of property we can't use, we don't need to bother with it," FOCUS member Laura Ward said.

Ward, members of her group and residents have formulated a utopic picture of what they would like Tallevast to become, a vision that includes the former Salvation Army parcel, as well the northeast and southwest corners of Tallevast Road and U.S. 301.

Included in what they refer to as "Imagine Tallevast" are such things as single-family housing, a recreation center, senior housing, a business complex and an education complex that would host satellite campuses of various colleges.

The parcels of land FOCUS

Included in what the FOCUS group refers to as "Imagine Tallevast" are such things as single-family housing, a recreation center, senior housing, a business complex and an education complex that would host satellite campuses of various colleges.

is looking at are zoned industrial-heavy and industrial-light, as is much of the surrounding U.S. 301 corridor.

Many of the uses envisioned by the group are excluded in these land-use categories, and would require an amendment to the comprehensive plan, a process which would take close to a year, according to planner Michael Wood.

Planner Leon Kotecki advised the group to wait until they had acquired the property in question, or had an "iron-clad" agreement with the owners before undertaking the zoning change. Otherwise, he said, FOCUS risks having someone take advantage of the new zoning and swoop in and develop it themselves.

The county can initiate changes to the comprehensive plan, but Wood said the county is very careful about changes in zoning. Owners have a reasonable expectation of what uses are zoned for their property, and changing it can cause legal issues.

But Wood also told the group that the comprehensive plan is reviewed every seven years, and that Tallevast's concerns could be addressed during the evaluation period this year.

"I think this might be an issue that needs to be raised," Wood said. "Are these categories appropriate any longer?"

When the industrial

boundaries were drawn up, there was very little residential development anywhere near them.

Now, there are communities springing up everywhere, encroaching on the industrial corridor, Wood said.

And Tallevast has a shortage of land.

"There's no room for expansion," Ward said. "There are lots of people who want to build here, but there's just no property."

Wanda Washington agreed.

"Homes would be sold before they were even in here," she said.

Washington also said she is tired of hearing Tallevast's efforts referred to as NIMBY (not in my back yard).

"At some point, everyone has to work about what's in their own back yard," Washington said. "People on Longboat Key are worrying about what's in their back yard, why shouldn't little Tallevast?"

Wood said the group is headed in the right direction.

"We have a lot of people banging on our door telling us what they don't want," he said, "but a very important step is telling us what you do want. You've got your structure set — many neighborhood groups can't get that far."

Lisa Marie Lentz, East Manatee reporter, can be reached at 708-7906 or at llentz@bradentonherald.com.



This copy is for your personal, noncommercial use only. You can order presentation-ready copies for distribution to your colleagues, clients or customers [here](#) or use the "Reprints" tool that appears above any article. [Order a reprint of this article now.](#)

Printed on page B51

'Tallevast' bill just the beginning, Galvano says

By Jeremy Wallace

Published: Friday, May 6, 2005 at 2:59 a.m.

TALLAHASSEE -- A bill that passed through the Legislature on Thursday is meant to make sure the state understands it has a responsibility to the public, its sponsor said.

And similar bills aimed at holding state regulators accountable will be coming in the future, said State Rep. Bill Galvano, R-Bradenton.

The state Department of Environmental Protection knew about massive contamination near the former American Beryllium Co. plant in Manatee County's Tallevast neighborhood, but took three years to tell people who live near the site. The new legislation requires the DEP to notify neighboring property owners within 30 days of a potential contamination problem. It still must be signed by the governor.

It's been clear from the way they've handled the case, Galvano said, that the DEP doesn't recognize that part of its role is to make sure the public knows about environmental and health risks nearby.

It wasn't that they were being malicious, he said; they just didn't get it. The bureaucrats in the agency didn't fully understand where public notice fit into their responsibilities.

So now Galvano plans to create more legislation to force the DEP to be responsive to the community. The passage of Thursday's notification bill is just the start of an effort to change DEP's culture, he said.

"We need to establish a culture of knowledge there," Galvano said. "Knowledge in the hands of county leaders is vital."

That will likely mean more legislation and more oversight in general by state lawmakers, Galvano said.

"I'm not going to shy away from this now just because the bill passed," Galvano said.

Rep. Ron Reagan, R-Bradenton, whose district office is near the contamination site, said he also wants to see more activity from the Legislature to correct the mistakes that were made around Tallevast.

Like Galvano, Reagan said he doesn't know what the next step will be, but believes Tallevast will become a statewide case for what can go wrong when regulators keep residents in the dark about pollution in their neighborhood.

Tallevast residents had mixed reactions to news of the bills' passage.

"We're happy that Tallevast was instrumental in helping other people, but the bill is too late for us. It does nothing for Tallevast," said Wanda Washington, a lifelong resident. "Now that the pollution is here, we're focusing on our health."

Galvano's bill passed the House on Monday, but struggled to get on the Senate's voting schedule until Galvano began to call in favors to get it through. It wasn't that anyone opposed the legislation, it was just having trouble working its way through the hundreds of other bills struggling to be heard in the Senate, Galvano said.

Galvano expanded the legislation to include procedures instructing the DEP how to handle public notification when a school is near a potentially contaminated site. That measure was included to specifically address contamination at a school in Calhoun County in the Panhandle.

Although the DEP had been investigating petroleum contamination at a high school there, the parents and teacher were never notified.

Galvano cited that situation as another example of the DEP having to be prodded to notify the people most affected by the potential contamination. He said in Florida, where open government is so revered, it's important to make sure the DEP is playing by the same rules to keep the public informed.

Galvano has a good relationship with DEP officials and isn't out to make them look bad, he said. But Galvano said he intends to keep the pressure on them to make sure they don't repeat their mistakes.

Before he introduces more legislation, Galvano plans to make sure the new notification requirements work, he said.

Washington said she would like to see legislation to make it easier for residents affected by pollution to sue the companies responsible. Lockheed Martin bought the former American Beryllium plant in 1996 and is responsible for the cleanup there. Washington and other residents have hired a group of attorneys to sue Lockheed over the pollution, which they say is responsible for higher-than-normal rates of cancers and other ailments in the community.

With Lockheed's deep pockets, and the burden of proof on residents to prove their sicknesses were caused by the plant's pollution, winning compensation will be an uphill battle, Washington said.

"We know the source of the pollution, and we know what those chemicals do to people. But in order to have the industry compensate me, I have to sue them and prove they did it," Washington said. "I don't understand that. It doesn't seem right."

Laws making it easier to sue polluters would help people who have gotten ill from such pollution get compensated, and make the polluting industries more responsible, Washington said.

Staff writer Scott Carroll contributed to this report.

This story appeared in print on page BS1

Copyright © 2014 HeraldTribune.com — All rights reserved. Restricted use only.

Posted on Thu, Oct. 27, 2005

Tallevast: Bush dismisses FOCUS leaders

DONNA WRIGHT
Herald Staff Writer

TALLEVAST - Gov. Jeb Bush brushed off Tallevast residents' concerns for their health and safety, community leaders said Wednesday.

Laura Ward and Wanda Washington, officers of the advocacy group Family Oriented Community United and Strong, sought Bush's personal intervention in August to move residents in the community out of harm's way. The FOCUS leaders' lengthy letter, which Bush received Aug. 24, detailed how Tallevast residents fear their health has been compromised and their property values damaged by an underground plume of toxic waste stemming from an old beryllium plant.

Instead of a direct reply, Bush asked Deborah Getzoff, director of the Department of Environmental Protection's Southwest District Office in Tampa, to respond for him.

Getzoff's letter, dated Oct. 20, sought to assure Ward and Washington that an ongoing risk assessment would answer their health and environmental questions by year's end.

But Ward and Washington dismissed Getzoff's response as reflective of policymakers' long-established pattern of minimizing the danger facing Tallevast.

That pattern of neglect was among the issues Ward and Washington raised with Bush.

"Our small, predominantly black community has been encroached upon by various contaminants within the water and the soil (all of which are known carcinogens)," Ward and Washington wrote in their letter to the governor. "Unfortunately, our community has been overlooked and seemingly disregarded as a vital part of the county in which we live. Over the years, property zoning/rezoning has been completed, and implemented without regards to the Tallevast community."

That oversight, the letter states, "is a classic case of industrial racism; an obstacle not expected in the year 2005."

FOCUS leaders expected Bush to directly intervene in efforts to relocate the community.

They were surprised and disappointed, they said, when no personal answer came.

Calls to the governor's office for comment were not returned late Wednesday.

Pamala Vazquez, DEP spokeswoman, said it's not unusual for the district director to answer on behalf of the governor.

"We will be meeting with FOCUS leaders on Friday and we would love to hear from them if we have not adequately addressed their concerns," said Vazquez, who stressed DEP has an open door policy.

"As always, we are here to listen to their concerns," she said. "I think we have made it extremely obvious that we take their concerns seriously. If they feel we have not, we will have to listen to them."

FOCUS leaders and their technical consultant Tim Varney plan to meet with DEP officials Friday to share data from independent testing of their private wells.

Ward and Washington predicted those test results will challenge Lockheed Martin Corp.'s conclusion that the underground plume poses no health risk to Tallevast residents.

Lockheed Martin Corp. owned the beryllium plant in 2000 when the contamination from a leaking underground sump was discovered. Although Lockheed sold the facility to Wire Pro Inc., the defense giant has assumed the responsibility for cleaning up the toxic mess.

DEP is the regulatory agency overseeing that clean-up process.

Getzoff did address Ward and Washington's concerns over the nature of the manufacturing operation within the Wire Pro plant and what chemicals might be used that could pose a risk to residents.

FOCUS leaders have long suspected that discharges from the Wire Pro plant could be contributing to the underground plume. But a DEP hazardous waste inspection performed on Oct. 5 confirmed that WPI is properly managing what little hazardous waste it generates, Getzoff said.

Doug Koenig, general manager of Wire Pro, said his company is simply a tenant to a problem it inherited.

"Our position is and continues to be that we are a benign operation and that we run a very clean operation as evidenced by the DEP report, Koenig said.

Wire Pro, which employs 120 people, manufactures and assembles electrical wiring harnesses primarily for defense subcontractors.

Inspectors found one minor code violation, said Bill Kutash, the DEP hazardous waste manager in charge of overseeing the clean up of Tallevast plume.

Workers who do blemish control on the final products produced at Wire Pro wear a finger cot or small protective cap or swab, on their fingers to apply a solvent called methyl ethyl ketone, or MEK. Exposure to MEK can cause irritation to the eyes, nose and throat, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Chronic inhalation studies in animals have reported slight neurological, liver, kidney and respiratory effects. Developmental effects, including decreased fetal weight and fetal malformations, have been reported in mice and rats.

"We told WPI that they either had to run tests to show that the amount on the swabs wasn't hazardous or to handle disposal of the finger caps as if they were hazardous," Kutash said.

But the amount used at WPI is very minimal, Kutash added.

DEP also asked Wire Pro to inventory standard chemicals and solvents in a maintenance shed and dispose of those not being currently used.

Getzoff's letter details the Florida statutes that would govern how the toxic waste in Tallevast would be remediated. She also addressed the issue of future land use, reassuring Tallevast residents that Lockheed's draft proposal for restricting future land use of the beryllium plant site to industrial use only would apply just to the Wire Pro property.

Any deed restriction on private property limiting future use would require the consent of the property owner, Getzoff said.

Kutash explained that exposure to the toxic waste can be controlled by either removing the pollutants or by limiting future land use through deed restrictions.

Lockheed spokeswoman Gail Rymer confirmed that the defense giant has no interest in pursuing deed restrictions on private property, but intends to remediate the groundwater contamination through a pump and treat method.

The proposed deed restriction limiting future land use of the old beryllium plant site applies to just soil contamination, Rymer said.

"The site is now industrial property," Rymer said, "and the soil samples meet current industrial standards. We say as long as it is an industrial site, keep in industrial. If in the future it becomes residential, then clean the site to residential standards."

The contaminated soil at the plant site is buried so deep it does not present an exposure risk, Rymer said.

"These soils are not going to impact residents or employees," Rymer said. "If you dug a hole for swimming pool, you still wouldn't reach the contamination."

Rymer said she believes the cleanup process is on schedule.

"I feel that the process is working well," Rymer said. "We continue to have open dialogue with the community as we move quickly to a resolution. We hope to have a remediation plan implemented by spring of 2006."

But Washington fears by then it will be too late for Tallevast residents to have any say in their future.

Tallevast is being hemmed in by industrial development without regard for that fact that the residents were there first, Washington said. And with each new industry comes, she warned, the threat of more pollution.

"If people here had money, if we were not black, this would not be happening," said Washington. "Why aren't they coming to us and telling us what their big plan is? Why aren't they trying to partner with us? Instead they are trying to run us out."

Donna Wright, health and social services reporter, can be reached at 745-7049 or at dwright@HeraldToday.com.

HeraldToday.com

Read the letter from the director of the Department of Environmental Protection's Southwest District Office in Tampa to the Tallevast community leaders.

HERALD WATCHDOG

The Washington Post

One-quarter of Lockheed Martin executives take buyout offer

By Marjorie Censer
Capital Business Staff Writer
Wednesday, September 8, 2010; 10:24 PM

Bethesda-based contracting giant Lockheed Martin announced Wednesday that more than 600 executives have taken the company up on an early-exit program that provides financial incentives in exchange for leaving.

The total represents about 25 percent of all company executives and follows Lockheed's move to cut its workforce of 136,000 worldwide by about 10,000 since the beginning of last year.

The initiative - which sends top Lockheed employees into the job market and potentially into the offices of competitors - reflects a much larger shift underway as defense contractors scramble to prepare for Pentagon budget cuts. Even during a recession that hit hard in many parts of the country, these contractors have been buoyed by urgent needs for equipment and services for troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

But in recent months, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates has called on the Defense Department and its contractors to become more efficient and cost-conscious. Scaled-back operations abroad and an increasingly large federal deficit have only made more real to contractors the threat of reduced spending.

"The defense industry has gotten the message that the years of big budget increases are over," said Loren Thompson, a defense industry consultant at the Lexington Institute. "This is not about posturing. This is about fundamental reorganization in anticipation of softening demand."

Some companies have announced organizational changes. BAE Systems, which headquarters its U.S. business in Arlington County, restructured its company from 10 lines of business into five sectors this summer, while ITT Defense and Information Solutions in into three and reduced its staff by about 1,000 early this ye

More recently, Boeing, which bases its defense operations consolidate its six military aircraft divisions into four as of will reduce its workforce, starting with about 10 percent o

Lockheed itself has moved to divest two business units an summer's Farnborough International Airshow, a major aer

Advertisement



▶ **Operations Manager**

At the UCHC, this class is accountable...
University of Co... | Farmington, CT

▶ **Senior Auto Damage Appraiser ...**

About Liberty Mutual Group Boston-base...
Liberty Mutual G... | Springfield, MA

▶ **Service Coordinator**

Summary Support team manager in day to...
ADT Security Ser... | Springfield, MA

▶ **Financial Advisor Associate**

Become a Morgan Stanley Smith Barney F...
Morgan Stanley | Miami, FL

WHY MANY COMPANIES COMPLAIN THEY CAN'T FIND QUALIFIED PEOPLE

The jobs crisis has brought an unwelcome discovery for many unemployed Americans.

close | opt out | what is this?

"I think that we're really at the beginning of this," said Todd Harrison, a defense analyst with the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments. Contractors "are trying to get ahead of the curve in the sense that they're going to get leaner and more efficient."

Some of the 600 departing Lockheed executives might not necessarily leave. Lockheed spokesman Jeffery Adams said the company reserves the right to rescind the buyout offer in cases of "extenuating circumstances or severe program impacts."

In its announcement, Lockheed said the program will provide substantial savings in 2011 and in future years, but Adams did not identify how much.

Some executives have already left, but the final deadline for departing is February, according to Adams. He declined to identify any particular executives who will exit.

"We're grateful to the executives who will be leaving, because we built this corporation on their leadership and dedicated service," Robert J. Stevens, Lockheed Martin's chairman and chief executive, said in a statement.

[View all comments](#) that have been posted about this article.

Post a Comment

[View all comments](#) that have been posted about this article.

Comments that include profanity or personal attacks or other inappropriate comments or material will be removed from the site. Additionally, entries that are unsigned or contain "signatures" by someone other than the actual author will be removed. Finally, we will take steps to block users who violate any of our posting standards, terms of use or privacy policies or any other policies governing this site. Please review the [full rules](#) governing commentaries and discussions. You are fully responsible for the content that you post.

Sponsored Links

Obama Urges Homeowners to Refinance

If you owe less than \$729k you probably qualify for Obamas Refi Program
www.SeeRefinanceRates.com

Rich Dad Poor Dad Albany

Rich Dad Poor Dad Education FREE financial workshops Oct. 12th -13th
www.richdadeducationseminars.com

Free Penny Stock Picks!

Our last pick exploded 3550% - Join our free newsletter today!
www.PennyStocksExpert.com

[Buy a link here](#)

© 2010 The Washington Post Company

[Print This Article](#)[Back to web version](#)

BRADENTONHERALD.COM

Tuesday, Nov 23, 2010

Posted on Tue, Nov. 23, 2010

For Tallevast, finally some big developments BRADENTON HERALD EDITORIAL | Major suit settled, but cleanup concerns persist

Residents of the tiny community of Tallevast finally resolved a 5-year-old lawsuit against Lockheed Martin Corp. over underground contamination. This comes a decade after the international corporate giant first discovered a toxic plume of cancer-causing industrial solvents had polluted the groundwater and wells beneath the historic black community. Residents did not learn of the health threat until three years later, leading to a bitter battle with Lockheed Martin.

This month, though, the company and some 270 Tallevast residents confirmed a settlement to the lawsuit. Both sides agreed to keep the terms confidential.

We can only hope the accord satisfies residents after years of enduring hardship and fear over the uncertainties from the threat to their health, welfare and future. With many residents aging, additional years of litigation would be unlikely to serve their more immediate interests.

This marks the first time the two sides have negotiated a major issue to a successful conclusion. The lawsuit sought damages for the well-documented emotional distress and the clear loss of property value.

Lockheed Martin still faces three other resident lawsuits.

Tallevast sits above a 200-acre plume of toxic chemicals that originated in a defunct beryllium plant. Lockheed purchased the shuttered American Beryllium property in 1996 and attempted to sell the land in 2000. But an environmental study uncovered the pollution, scuttling the sale and making Lockheed Martin liable for a cleanup.

While the company advised the Florida Department of Environmental Protection of the contamination, state rules at that time did not require resident notification.

That lack of foresight -- since corrected thanks to 2005 legislation by Bradenton Rep. Bill Galvano -- kept residents unaware that they were drinking and showering in water from tainted wells for three years.

That long delay infuriated residents, and the lawsuit claims that "As a result of defendants' intentional or reckless conduct ... plaintiffs, during this time, continued to use the wells ... thereby causing plaintiffs to be unknowingly further exposed to hazardous chemicals and substances ..."

The next section of the lawsuit contends: "Defendants knew or should have known that emotional distress would likely result to plaintiffs from their intentional or reckless conduct described above."

Yes indeed.

Also this month, the DEP gave final approval to Lockheed Martin's remediation plan. The company expects to extract the bulk of the contamination over 10 years. A complete cleanup could be almost another four decades -- years down the road.

~~Property values will not recover for generations. Residents still express concerns over the cleanup.~~

The 80-plus families living there now want to be relocated, but Lockheed Martin has resisted that demand.

Galvano continues to negotiate on behalf of residents, a commendable position considering he left office recently.

For a community that takes pride in its history -- dating back to the 1890s when the Tallevast family built a hamlet of shacks to house black turpentine workers and their families -- the past few years have been a daunting struggle.

We encourage Lockheed Martin to take extra steps to satisfy residents.

© 2010 Bradenton.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.bradenton.com>

[Print This Article](#)

[Back to web version](#)

BRADENTONHERALD.COM

Friday, Apr 1, 2011

Published: Sunday, Mar. 27, 2011

Updated: Sunday, Mar. 27, 2011

In Tallevast, beryllium concerns persist

Remediation plan, razing of old plant's buildings have remaining residents steamed

By TONI WHITT
twhitt@bradenton.com

TALLEVAST -- Residents of this tiny community have challenged Lockheed Martin's remediation plan for groundwater contamination at the former American Beryllium plant that sits at the center of the neighborhood.

But that hasn't prevented the company from tearing down the old American Beryllium buildings so that they can make way for a new groundwater treatment plant that is part of the clean-up plan.

Over the past few months Lockheed Martin has put up barriers around the former plant and begun dismantling all of the buildings at the site. In recent weeks, it has been tearing up the thick, concrete-slab foundation, wrapping the pieces in heavy plastic and hauling the pieces off the property.

Once that work is complete, the company will cover the site with asphalt in preparation for a new water treatment plant. But first it must win approval from an administrative judge who will consider the residents' challenge to the remediation plan.

Tallevast residents are unhappy with the plan because Lockheed Martin estimates that the groundwater clean-up will take 50 years. By then, residents say, most of them will be dead and so will this 100-year-old community.

"If there was a possibility for me to get away from here now and preserve my health, I would," said Laura Ward, president of FOCUS, the group that is suing Lockheed Martin and has paid for air quality monitoring around the site during demolition.

She said many of the younger residents have moved away and don't plan to return.

They are also concerned about the ongoing work at the contaminated site because of fears that more beryllium dust could be released into the air. Several former workers from the plant and their family members suffer from berylliosis, a chronic lung disease caused by exposure to beryllium.

Tallevast residents have been so concerned about making sure that they are safe from beryllium dust during demolition, they hired Environ, an environmental consultant with offices in Tampa, to monitor the air during the work. While Lockheed Martin was taking apart the buildings piece by piece, Environ reported to Lockheed Martin on Dec. 22 that there had been a release of beryllium dust into the community Dec. 13. Residents said they were notified at the same time and that the levels were measured at 250 times acceptable air levels, according to one report they saw.

Gary Cambre, a spokesman for Lockheed Martin, said that air quality measurement was the only time beryllium was measured during the "dismantlement" of the buildings on site.

Lockheed Martin officials said the beryllium was at a concentration of 0.0017 milligrams per cubic meter and that the concentration is "below the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) of 0.002. The detection did not represent a health hazard to either onsite workers or anyone in surrounding communities."

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry reports that a concentration of 0.0005 is likely to cause chronic beryllium disease in humans.

Ward said OSHA's standards aren't the standard that should be used in a community where residents are already infected with berylliosis.

For Wanda Washington, the vice president of FOCUS, and Ward, it is further proof that all of the residents of the Tallevast community should be relocated until the remediation is complete. In essence, with a 50-year clean-up plan, that means Lockheed Martin would have to buy the homes.

"We think all of the homes should be purchased," Washington said. "They all think we just want to get rich. We've never been rich and don't care about getting rich. We care about the people, the community. We don't know what the cost to human life will be."

Hearing this week

And some elected officials in Washington, D.C., are starting to get the message about communities concerned about such contamination.

The U.S. Senate Committee on the Environment and Public Works has scheduled a hearing for this week on disease clusters and environmental health. The chair of the committee, Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., has proposed a bill aimed at helping communities determine whether there is a connection between "clusters" of cancer, birth defects and other ailments, such as berylliosis, and contaminants in the environment.

Lockheed Martin purchased the former Loral American Beryllium Plant at 1600 Tallevast Road in 1996. An important link in the nation's defense and nuclear research programs during its operation from 1961 through 1996, the American Beryllium Company recruited machinists from around the world to make parts for nuclear weapons and reactors. When Lockheed was preparing to sell the property in 2000, an environmental audit revealed cancer-causing chemicals and industrial solvents had leaked into surrounding soil and groundwater. Although Lockheed informed county and state environmental officials about the plume, as required by law, residents did not learn of the toxins until the fall of 2003 when drilling rigs began to sink test wells in the community.

Cambre said Lockheed Martin wants to clean up the contaminants as quickly as it possibly can.

That is why the company has already begun preparing the site for a water treatment plant that will remove contamination in the plume of groundwater below the community.

The problem, he said, is that the plant will only be able to treat 200 gallons of groundwater a minute because of the difficulty of getting the water out of the ground. That's why it is expected to take five decades to complete the clean-up. Currently a small treatment plant is cleaning groundwater there at 20 gallons a minute.

The company, Cambre said, has taken every precaution from releasing dust into the air during its piece by piece dismantling of the buildings. Construction workers used huge misters, dubbed dust destroyers, to keep the dust from rising as they took the buildings apart. During slab removal, workers have used hoses and concrete saws that use water to control friction and dust. The slab removal, which has been a noise nuisance -- the worst noise comes when huge slabs of concrete boom as they hit the truck beds for removal -- should be completed in the first week of April, barring any weather events, according to Cambre. The slabs, which must be wrapped in heavy plastic, are being trucked to the JED Solid Waste Management facility near St. Cloud.

Asphalt will be placed over the site once the slab removal is done and some site testing completed. The asphalt placement is part of Lockheed Martin's plan to provide an impervious cap on the site before it can begin building a foundation for the water treatment plant.

But even as the company prepares for its remediation at the site, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection approved a new Temporary Point of Compliance or TPOC, adding 13 new properties to the list of contaminated sites, bringing the total properties affected to 221.

Those property owners were all notified this month, giving everyone within the TPOC area 30 days to officially comment on the remediation plan and the area of contamination, before any work can begin.

In addition, Tallevast residents have formally challenged the remediation plan and the state must hold an administrative hearing about the residents' concerns before remediation can begin.

© 2011 Bradenton.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.bradenton.com>

[Print This Article](#)[Back to web version](#)

BRADENTONHERALD.COM

Monday, Apr 4, 2011

Published: Monday, Mar. 28, 2011

Updated: Monday, Mar. 28, 2011

Tallevast to grab attention at U.S. Senate hearing

By LESLEY CLARK

Herald Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON -- Tallevast will be among three Florida communities cited in Senate testimony Tuesday by an environmental group that wants to step up the federal response to investigating suspected clusters of cancer, birth defects and other illnesses.

Tallevast -- where residents have reported cases of a chronic lung disease caused by exposure to beryllium -- will be among 42 so-called disease "cluster" sites in 13 states to be highlighted by the Natural Resources Defense Council. The group -- along with environmental activist Erin Brockovich -- is testifying before the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

Committee chair Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., and Idaho Sen. Mike Crapo -- the top Republican on the Superfund, Toxics and Environmental Health subcommittee -- are co-sponsoring legislation aimed at helping communities determine whether there's a link between elevated levels of illness and contaminants in the environment.

The NRDC, which surveyed 13 states to determine the scope of complaints, backs the bill and said it hopes the hearing will draw attention to communities like Tallevast, Palm Beach County's Acreage and Collier County's Immokalee, where residents have also reported unusual rates of disease.

"Each of these communities is suffering alone and that doesn't need to be," said Gina Solomon, a medical doctor and senior scientist with the NRDC. "The science could be more powerful if there was a study looking more broadly at disease clusters."

Solomon said the group looked at 13 states in an effort to document the frequency of areas with unusual rates of disease. It found 42 clusters, either confirmed or under active investigation with diseases ranging from childhood cancer, birth defects and neurological diseases to multiple sclerosis.

"It's a very widespread and diverse problem that needs national attention," Solomon said. "Investigations are happening often at the county or state level without adequate resources on a sporadic basis, but this really requires national level attention."

The NRDC survey says that in Tallevast, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry determined in 2008 that prior long-term use of groundwater for drinking and other household purposes was a public health hazard. From 1962 to 1996, the survey notes, the American Beryllium Company manufactured machine parts in the community.

The survey also notes that the Florida Department of Health confirmed a pediatric brain cancer cluster in a rural Palm Beach County community, The Acreage. No cause has been identified.

The report also notes that in 2004, the National Institute of Occupational and Safety and Health and state health officials in North Carolina and Florida identified three women employed by AgMart who gave birth to children with birth defects during a seven-week period. All six parents worked on the same tomato fields in North Carolina and Florida.

Boxer and Crapo's legislation would give the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency a role in investigating

clusters, create guidelines for prioritizing and investigating disease clusters and increase assistance to cluster communities.

"Whenever there is an unusual increase in disease within in a community, those families deserve to know that the federal government's top scientists and experts are accessible and available to help, especially when the health and safety of children are at risk," Boxer said in January when she introduced the legislation.

But the bill may face a tough climb in Congress with resources tight and Republicans showing interest in scaling back the EPA's existing authority. In Florida, a bipartisan group of lawmakers have raised questions about water quality standards the EPA has set for the state.

Causes of illness clusters can be difficult to pinpoint given the use of chemicals in everyday life and critics note that some clusters may be statistical flukes. But environmentalists say the investigations have been spotty and Solomon said the legislation is aimed at finding answers, not pointing fingers.

"This is about doing the science right, figuring out what's going on and taking action to prevent future health problems," she said, noting that in Tallevast, the water source was identified. "If we listened to people who said it's a statistical fluke, people would still be drinking that water."

© 2011 Bradenton.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.bradenton.com>

[Print This Article](#)[Back to web version](#)

BRADENTONHERALD.COM

Monday, Apr 4, 2011

Published: Wednesday, Mar. 30, 2011

Updated: Wednesday, Mar. 30, 2011

Tallevast included in study presented to Senate panel

Tallevast included in study presented to Senate panel

By ERIKA BOLSTAD, BARBARA BARRETT and LESLEY CLARK
Herald Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON -- Activists urged the government Tuesday to let people post and track cancer cases across communities, a public health effort they say could lead to discoveries of new chemical-related cancer clusters throughout the United States, as well as insights into disease management.

A doctor, a cancer survivor from Idaho, and the high-wattage environmental advocate Erin Brockovich told a Senate panel that no federal agency now effectively tracks cancers in a way that easily allows scientists to determine the existence of cancer clusters.

Known clusters, such as dozens of male breast cancer cases among Marine veterans stationed at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, routinely are discovered among the patients themselves rather than medical or scientific experts. A scientific paper submitted to the panel highlighted three such sites in Florida, including Manatee County's Tallevast.

Clusters are occurrences of cancer found in a small area or a short period of time at rates higher than statistically normal. It's difficult to link a cluster of cancers to a particular toxin or effect, however, and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee took testimony Tuesday on legislation that would track the potential disease impacts of toxic chemicals.

Trevor Schaefer, a 21-year-old cancer survivor, told the committee that when he was 13 and found out he had brain cancer in 2002, four other people were diagnosed with the same disease in his Idaho town of 1,700.

But when his mother, Charlie Smith, took that information to the Cancer Data Registry of Idaho, he was told that McCall, Idaho, was too small to warrant a cancer cluster study.

Three Florida cases were highlighted in a report to the Senate panel by the Natural Resources Defense Council. Though Tallevast, the tiny Manatee County community where residents have complained of unusual cancer rates near a former beryllium plant, wasn't mentioned at the hearing by name, the fact that it is included in the study came as encouraging news to Wanda Washington, vice president of FOCUS, a community advocacy group.

"The community didn't bring this upon itself and it shouldn't be left alone to deal with it," Washington said. "All levels of government should be involved in finding a solution."

NRDC senior scientist Gina Solomon did note the incidence of more than 60 male breast cancer cases among Marine veterans and family members who used to live at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

The base's well water was contaminated for decades before toxic wells were closed in 1984.

"These disease clusters are frightening for communities and often frustrating for scientists," said Solomon, a medical doctor. But she said known clusters can further scientific knowledge.

"These clusters may unlock some of the mysteries of chronic disease, especially birth defects and childhood cancer," Solomon said.

Brockovich called the system for investigating and identifying disease clusters "inadequate." Brockovich, who was played by Julia Roberts in a movie about her life, is best known for fighting for the people of Hinkley, Calif., exposed to chromium-6 in their drinking water. She pointed to a map of cancer clusters that people reported to her as a well-known environmental advocate, in part because there's no central government collection point.

"This is becoming an all too common occurrence," Brockovich said. "Protecting the health of our families and our children should be the top priorities for us all. There are simply too many cancers in this country and not enough answers."

Mike Partain, a Tallahassee resident who was born at Camp Lejeune, N.C., spent years combing the Internet on his own time searching for other male breast cancer patients after his own diagnosis in 2007.

He started with two men, then seven, then 20, then 40 and so on, finding more men whenever his story was published in the press.

"I'm still finding people," Partain said.

Just a few weeks ago he met a woman wearing a breast-cancer ribbon. She had a male relative who was a patient and a Marine who served at Lejeune.

Partain, who didn't testify Tuesday, supports the Boxer/Crapo legislation, but he warned that the science must be independent, without undue influence.

"The government has to do something, but it has to be objective," Partain said. "And that's the problem -- all too often special interests find a way to get their people into the research."

Communities who aren't high-profile cases are paying attention.

But at Tuesday's hearing, Richard Belzer, an economist who testified at the request of the top Republican on the committee, said he was concerned about how the legislation defined clusters. Belzer, president of Regulatory Checkbook, warned against frightening communities by assuming chemical-related clusters where none exist. He said the legislation could end up politicizing science, but he also told Boxer during questioning that he would work with her on improving the legislation.

Boxer, D-Calif., and Sen. Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, are co-sponsoring the legislation, which also calls for a stronger and more coordinated federal response to investigating suspected disease clusters and documenting them, led by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Crapo, the top Republican on the Superfund, Toxics and Environmental Health Subcommittee, has twice been treated successfully for prostate cancer, and has advocated for people who've suffered health effects from living downwind of nuclear testing in Nevada in the 1950s and 1960s.

Some Republicans on the committee said Tuesday they thought other federal agencies might be better suited to looking at the disease clusters than the EPA, which has been targeted recently by the GOP. Republicans in the House of Representatives have moved to curtail the EPA's authority in other areas, particularly greenhouse gas emissions. Republicans in the Senate -- including Crapo -- also support moving in that direction.

But Boxer said that they chose the EPA rather than, say, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, because if the causes of cancer clusters are determined to be environmental, the EPA that has the ability to address air, water and soil pollution.

Other agencies can't fix it, Boxer said, but EPA has the ability to follow through. And the bill calls for multiple state, local and federal agencies to coordinate cluster investigations, she said.

"Our bill says we're going to coordinate these responses. It's high time we did it," she said.

The NRDC, which surveyed the 13 states to determine the scope of complaints, backs the bill and said it hopes the hearing will draw attention to small communities across the country, including in some of the

poorest pockets.

© 2011 Bradenton.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.bradenton.com>

Bradenton Herald

[Previous Story](#)

[Next Story](#)

A weary, ailing Tallevast welcomes spotlight

By TONI WHITT

twhitt@bradenton.com April 3, 2011

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Google Plus](#) [Reddit](#) [E-mail](#) [Print](#)

- **Related Stories:**

- Tallevast included in study presented to Senate panel
- Congress urged to track cancer clusters better
- Tallevast to grab attention at U.S. Senate hearing
- In Tallevast, beryllium concerns persist
- Plant fully dismantled in Tallevast
- For Tallevast, finally some big developments BRADENTON HERALD EDITORIAL | Major suit settled, but cleanup concerns persist
- Fla. regulators OK Tallevast cleanup plan
- Tallevast project approved over residents' objections
- Board supports more Tallevast development
- Tallevast residents, Lockheed Martin settle suit
- PREVIOUS COVERAGE | With no relocation, Tallevast disappointed
- PREVIOUS COVERAGE | Winds kick up Tallevast worries
- Judge to decide Tallevast class action question
- PREVIOUS COVERAGE | Tallevast residents voice toxic cleanup frustration
- PREVIOUS COVERAGE | Judge: No class action in Tallevast
- Children play lead role in Tallevast organic movement
- More information | Green Wall project
- Lockheed decides not to relocate Tallevast residents
- Five-year Tallevast cleanup proposed: Lockheed submits new plan, replacing interim system
- Tallevast trial set for Oct. 2010

TALLEVAST -- It's been nearly seven years since Tallevast residents learned that the wells they had been using for their homes were contaminated with highly toxic substances.

They had already known their family members and neighbors seemed to suffer with cancer and other diseases at an alarming rate. They finally realized that their own drinking wells -- contaminated with chemicals from a manufacturing company in the center of Tallevast -- had likely been the cause of so much fear, pain and loss.

Surely, they thought, they would get immediate attention from doctors and experts now that they had a cause beyond bad luck or God's will. And they didn't just wait for the help to come. They asked for it, demanded it, agitated for it.

And the residents are finally getting national attention. Their plight has been discussed in Congress and is at the center of federal legislation designed to help communities like theirs.

And the state, which has known about the contamination for a decade, finally sent a doctor who

specializes in environmental and occupational health into Tallevast in recent months to talk to each resident about their medical histories and to get the releases necessary to study their medical records.

Dr. Janvier Gasana, a specialist in environmental and occupational medicine at Florida International University, interviewed more than 150 residents over five weekends this past winter. He has also reviewed the medical records for most of those residents and is waiting on about 30 medical releases to complete his analysis and prepare his preliminary report. He also hopes to get more surveys and medical records from people who have moved away from Tallevast.

Gasana, who is "almost 80 percent done" with his research, said he has urged the participants to get him everything before the end of the month so he can deliver his findings.

"Everything went smoothly while we were there meeting with everyone at the church," he said. "Verifying becomes an individual thing, and some people are faster at responding. We're working on this until the end of the month and then that's it."

Gasana will submit his report to the Department of Health in Tallahassee and then team with the state to share the results with Tallevast residents.

Galvano fought for study

The face-to-face health assessments might never have come but for a failed assessment by the Florida Department of Health that drew the attention of then-state Rep. Bill Galvano, R-Bradenton.

The department's 2008 cancer review, based on a state database and a search of local hospital records using zip codes, showed cancer rates were not unusual in Tallevast. But no one from the state visited Tallevast during the review, and the database search only came up with four cases of cancer. When health officials did meet with Tallevast residents, they admitted their study was wrong.

That same year, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, a public health agency arm of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, found that "prior long-term use of groundwater for drinking and other household purposes in Tallevast was a public hazard."

"Residents who drank the most highly contaminated groundwater every day for 42 years were more at risk for developing kidney cancer, liver cancer, leukemia and lymphoma," the agency reported.

After the local meeting in 2008, Galvano promised the residents he would find money in the state budget to fund a more accurate study. It took some time, but before he left office because of term limits, Galvano secured \$125,000 in state funding for the health assessment.

Too little, too late?

While congressional testimony shows there is a "confirmed" disease cluster in Tallevast, little has been done to deal with the health effects in the community as the research continues.

In its report to Congress about Tallevast and two other Florida communities with disease clusters, the Natural Resources Defense Council noted that "regardless of the cause, disease clusters can devastate communities with anxiety and emotional and financial difficulties, including high medical costs and lowered property values, as well as the tremendous burden of the disease itself."

Cassandra Brice, who was raised in Tallevast and has lived there most of her 53 years, has finally decided she can't take the constant stress any longer. She is moving away.

Brice says she's been to more funerals than she cares to count, most of them victims of some sort of

cancer.

She watched both of her parents die of cancer. Her mother, who died of breast cancer in 1997, was just nine years older than Brice is today. Her father, a former worker at American Beryllium, had prostate cancer two years ago when an aneurysm on his esophagus burst, killing him. An aunt who lived close by had breast cancer.

Brice hasn't had a mammogram in three years because she is afraid of what they will find. The stress from living in Tallevast has caused her to break out in hives. She's had melanoma on the back of her legs and one hip.

As youngsters, she and her sister Beverly Bradley used to play next door to the American Beryllium plant. They would sometimes retrieve balls and other toys from a ditch where runoff from the plant would stream into a nearby pond. The kids in the neighborhood often had fishing contests in that same pond and would bring home their catches for their parents to cook.

Now Bradley, 56, says she can't help but think that may be the reason she gave birth to two still-born babies and had two miscarriages. She had a healthy baby in 1987.

"The first thing that crossed my mind after hearing about the well water is that's what happened," said Bradley, who suffers from migraines she believes are brought on from the stress of living in Tallevast. Her arms and hands are scarred from a rare skin ailment now under control through regular prescription injections.

Carrie Tisdell, 62, has had three bouts with cancer and has spent the better part of the past 18 months in and out of the hospital.

She missed participating in Gasana's health assessment because she was in the hospital after having her breasts removed. She had ovarian cancer and a hysterectomy years earlier, but her cancer had spread beyond her uterus and was so extensive and unusual that doctors filmed the surgery, she said.

Her family grew up drinking the well water in Tallevast; her mother died of breast cancer in 1981 and her father suffered from stomach cancer.

"When I was first diagnosed, I was upset and worried about how I would tell my kids," Tisdell said. "I thought about how long I watched my mom die, and I didn't want my children to go through what I did."

Her son still does not like to talk about her illness with her, so she assigned her daughter, who lives in North Port, as her representative in her living will. She keeps a journal of all of her treatments and medications in a two-inch thick binder.

"I had to choose someone to speak for me when I couldn't," Tisdell said. "My son couldn't do it, so she had to. Because with cancer you never know."

Tisdell worries about what will happen with her children and grandchildren who were raised in Tallevast. What diseases will they suffer from the "poison" that is in the community, she wonders.

"It can linger in the body for a long time before you know you're poisoned," Tisdell said. "What will happen to them? What about their health care? It's a lot to go through and have on your mind, because you just don't know so much.

"All you can do is pray," she added. "I pray that no one else has to go through what I have to go through.

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Google Plus](#) [Reddit](#) [E-mail](#) [Print](#)

Bradenton Herald

[Previous Story](#)

[Next Story](#)

Expert gathers health data for Tallevast study

By TONI WHITT

twhitt@bradenton.com May 1, 2011

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Google Plus](#) [Reddit](#) [E-mail](#) [Print](#)

TALLEVAST -- The procession began Friday night and continued Saturday morning as residents of this tiny community met with Dr. Janvier Gasana to fill out a lengthy health survey and sign releases allowing him to examine their medical records.

Gasana and his team have been gathering the health information for more than a month. He was back in town over the weekend to make sure he gathered as many of the medical releases as possible and to get the last few health surveys from people still living in Tallevast. He said he had a better than 90 percent success rate by Saturday afternoon. He also gathered copies of death certificates and permission from family members to look at the medical records of those who had died.

Gasana said he is still trying to gather information from people who have moved from Tallevast. His goal is to get a thorough health record of everyone who has lived in the community. So far he has completed more than 170 health surveys and gotten the necessary medical releases.

He said so far he has had good luck getting information from families who have moved away from Tallevast.

"They know the things that have affected the community and they want to help," he said.

The survey includes questions about how long each person has lived in Tallevast, their health conditions, their lifestyle, including physical activities and diet. Once he has those surveys, he'll gather medical records so he can compare and analyze the information. His team will also compare the data against other similar communities.

Ultimately he will determine whether the health surveys and medical records indicate abnormal rates of cancers or other diseases within Tallevast.

Gasana, a specialist in environmental and occupational medicine, worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Chicago, where he worked on issues relating to children's exposure to pesticides and other toxins.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection is funding the study and approved Gasana's health study proposal. The analysis must be completed by the end of June.

Because Gasana still has to get medical records from dozens of doctors' offices, meeting the deadline could be challenging if those offices don't respond quickly.

"I will do whatever it takes to get the study done by the end of June," Gasana said Saturday. "If I have to, I will go to the doctors' offices and beg them for the records because we are running out of time."

[Print This Article](#)[Back to web version](#)

BRADENTONHERALD.COM

Friday, Jul 1, 2011

Published: Wednesday, Jun. 29, 2011

Updated: Wednesday, Jun. 29, 2011

Lockheed's Tallevast cleanup plan on trial

By TONI WHITT
twhitt@bradenton.com

BRADENTON -- Officials from the Department of Environmental Protection were on the witness stand on the eighth floor of the Manatee County Judicial Center to discuss the latest cleanup plan for the plume of contamination in the groundwater below Tallevast.

At the same time, a Miami doctor was on the phone with Department of Health officials in Tallahassee to discuss the community health assessment he has recently completed in the tiny community dating back more than 100 years.

This day was 10 years in the making and likely does not signal the end, but perhaps it signals a beginning for the residents who have agitated for help for the past decade.

The medical assessment is expected to show whether there is a disease or cancer-cluster in Tallevast as residents have long-suspected. That report is expected in coming weeks or days. A draft has been completed, but Dr. Janvier Gasana, who has reviewed the medical records of nearly 90 percent of the residents of Tallevast, has asked for an extension to turn in the final report. If the extension is granted, the report will be completed in early July.

The court case, which is expected to last into next week, will show whether a 48-year cleanup plan is the best Lockheed Martin can be expected to provide. Residents challenged Lockheed Martin's Remedial Action Plan and are hoping that the company will be forced to cleanup the groundwater and soil faster and more safely than is currently proposed.

Lockheed Martin contends it is "committed to restoring the environment, continuing to work with the Tallevast community, and is actively defending the RAP Addendum," according to a statement released Tuesday. "The challenge hearings are scheduled to complete the first week of July and Lockheed Martin looks forward to receiving the court's ruling."

The case began last week and continued on Tuesday as Jeanne Zokovitch Paben, the attorney representing Tallevast residents, questioned Simone Core, an engineer with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, about the remediation plan and the contamination.

Core, who has worked on remediation plans for contaminated sites in the agency's waste cleanup section, testified extensively about the engineering necessary to cleanup contaminated sites and about the levels of toxins that would indicate contamination in the groundwater.

Tallevast residents, who challenged the cleanup plan prompting the administrative hearing, were in the courtroom hanging on every answer and responding in whispers, sighs, assertions and doubts.

The residents were particularly concerned about the levels of vinyl chloride, Trichloroethylene or TCEs and 1,1,-dichloroethene or 1,1,-DCE in monitoring wells and in clay and sand zones in certain monitoring wells.

Residents fear that extracting water from certain wells could cause even greater environmental damage and possibly lead to contamination of the Floridan aquifer. In addition, they fear that the methods could lead to a spill of contaminated groundwater in their community, similar to a spill in 2008 from a leak at a small water

treatment facility at the site of the former Loral American Beryllium Co. at 1600 Tallevast Road. Alarms that should have gone off didn't. Residents found and reported the spill to DEP, according to Core's testimony on Tuesday.

One of the largest concerns among residents is that it is expected to take 22 years to clean up the surficial groundwater alone and a total of 48 years to cleanup all of the groundwater.

Lockheed Martin is currently working on a plan to build a water treatment plant on the site. The company, which has already torn down the old buildings at the site, has proposed pumping the contaminated plume of water out of the ground at 200 gallons per minute -- or nearly 300,000 gallons a day -- treating it and pumping it back into the ground. At that rate company officials estimate it will take 48 years to clean all of the contamination from the groundwater.

"The Tallevast Remedial Action Plan Addendum was approved by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection on Nov. 5, 2010," according to the statement. "Lockheed Martin personnel went to great lengths to include the community in the development of the RAP; one which incorporated the requests of the community, is protective of human health and the environment, and ultimately returns the groundwater to drinking water standards."

As both the court case and the health assessments are completed, the coming weeks could determine the future for residents who have long said that the groundwater contamination caused a disease and cancer cluster in their community and that they don't want to wait another five decades to get rid of the contamination under their homes.

© 2011 Bradenton.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.bradenton.com>

**CHEMICAL CONTAMINATION
IN FENCELINE COMMUNITIES**

Tallevast, Florida: Rural Residents Live Atop Groundwater Contaminated by High-Tech Weapons Company

© 2008 Steve Lerner

It all started on a September morning in 2003, when a drilling crew pulled up onto Laura Ward's lawn in the tiny town of Tallevast, Florida, 38 miles south of Tampa, and started boring a hole.

Why are they driving on my lawn? Ward wondered as she sat looking out her window. Within minutes, she was out her front door and across the lawn asking the crew chief what he was doing. She learned that Lockheed Martin, the most recent owner of the high-tech weapons plant located just down the street from her home, had hired the drilling crew to determine if toxic chemicals from their facility had seeped into the shallow groundwater and spread beneath the homes of Ward and her 300 neighbors.



Lynn Ward and Wanda Williams

Photo: Steve Lerner

When she heard this, Ward felt her world shift beneath her feet. She and her neighbors depended upon shallow wells that had provided them with water for generations. The possibility that this water was poisoned was truly frightening.

"I'm angry," says Ward, who with fellow Tallevast resident Wanda Washington leads a small community organization called Family Oriented Community United and Strong (FOCUS). "I made baby formula and cooked for my family with that water for years while people at Lockheed Martin and at the county regulatory agencies knew how harmful it was." Ward, who has two children who have had "bouts with cancer," says she is also upset because she had to learn about the contamination herself.



Dr. Clifford Ward

Photo: Steve Lerner

Up until the drillers appeared on Ward's lawn, life had been relatively quiet in Tallevast, a historically African-American community. Like many of the town's other residents, Laura Ward's husband, Dr. Clifford ("Billy") Ward, the town dentist, traces his family's history on the land back to the 1890s, when the town began as a "turp camp" where freed slaves got jobs teasing the sap out of long-leaf "slash" pines and boiling it into turpentine for use in the nation's shipyards and harbors. During his youth, Dr. Ward and his father worked as migrant laborers, following the harvest from the vegetable and fruit crops of Florida up to the apple orchards of New York. Other Tallevast residents stayed closer to home, working in the orange groves, on dairy farms, and for Ringling Brothers Circus, which has its

headquarters nearby.

In 1948, a small machine shop called Visioneering opened its factory across the street from the Ward home, just down the street from the town's only store and post office. Initially, residents appreciated the relatively well-paying maintenance, janitorial and machinist jobs the new plant provided. At the factory, "metals were milled, lathed, and drilled into various components. Chemicals used and wastes generated at the facility included oils, petroleum based fuels, solvents, acids and metals."¹

A decade later, in 1958, the factory was renamed American Beryllium Company (ABC), and it began to handle larger quantities of toxic materials to make weapons. The Loral Metal Company purchased ABC in 1961 and changed the name again, to Loral American Beryllium (LAB). During the accelerating Cold War arms race, LAB worked under contract with the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Department of Energy to fabricate parts for nuclear weapons, atomic reactors, and space program projects. In 1966, LAB was purchased by Lockheed Martin.²

A Toxic Discovery

The first report of contamination came when Lockheed Martin employees discovered that a sump pump in Building #5 had broken and spilled large quantities of industrial solvents and cancer-causing chemicals into the soil and groundwater. Among the "chemicals of concern" found in the groundwater in concentrations exceeding the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) guidelines were beryllium, chromium, tetrachloroethylene, and 1,1-dichloroethylene. Soil samples also contained excessive levels of volatile organic compounds, total petroleum hydrocarbons and other harmful compounds and metals.³

While company officials reported the contamination to local environmental officials at the Manatee County Environmental Management, they did not inform the people of Tallevast. That lack of candor is now part of a lawsuit. Residents did not learn they were living atop a spreading plume of toxic chemicals until three years later.

From July 2000 until October 2003, Lockheed Martin officials engaged in a quiet, voluntary clean up of some of their onsite contamination. They hired Tetra Tech, a California-based company, to remove 538 tons of tainted soils. In the course of their environmental sampling, Tetra Tech employees found trichloroethylene, tetrachloroethylene, dichloroethylene, dichloroethane, and vinyl chloride.⁴ They subsequently informed state environmental officials that contaminants from the five-acre company site -- including trichloroethylene (TCE) and a number of other solvents -- were migrating offsite in the groundwater.

Had Laura Ward not demanded to know why someone was boring holes in her lawn, residents of Tallevast might still be drinking water contaminated with toxic chemicals from the Lockheed Martin plant. Instead, Ward and her friend Wanda Washington became amateur environmental investigators, traveling to county and state regulatory offices to see what they could learn about the contamination. What they discovered was that a county official had been dispatched to see if any residents in the community were using their own wells but she failed to get out of her car to check because, county records indicate, she was afraid of dogs.

State officials later conceded that the "notification provisions of our rules were not adequate" and that residents should not have had to wait three years to hear about the contamination under their homes. The Florida legislature later passed the "Tallevast

Rule," which requires regulatory officials to promptly inform affected residents when a contamination problem is discovered. This fix, however, came too late to help Tallevast residents.



Robin Darville
Photo: Steve Lerner

"This is Personal"

"This would have been handled differently in a white community," says Wanda Washington about the drinking water contamination from the Lockheed Martin plant. "I think it is because of skin color. The government needs to be schooled that it is not alright to bring these types of facilities into residential communities."

Washington, 48, a mother of three with a psychology degree who worked as a database administrator, describes herself as normally a quiet woman. But since some well water in Tallevast was found to contain 250 to 500 ppb of trichloroethylene, a known carcinogen for which the regulatory standard is 3 ppb, Washington has begun to speak out. "I'm on the frontline because this contamination affected my family. I have no choice.

This story needs to be told."

"I hope God protects us and builds a fence around us," she says, but she knows that the shallow wells that residents used for decades have already brought poisons into their homes. "Even if we can't prove it scientifically, that these chemicals are causing cancer in our community, we all know it." Washington is outraged that county officials knew about the contamination for three years before residents found out about it on their own. "Who is looking out for us?" she asks. "Everybody knew except us and we are living with these poisons. I can't believe that anyone can be so cruel."

She is convinced that the pollution has already devastated the health of her family. Her mother, Lillie Flemming, 70, has breast cancer that is being treated with chemotherapy. She also has diabetes, skin growths, and a cough that doctors cannot treat effectively. "I'm upset about what is happening," says Flemming. "In fact, I'm angry as hell. I made formula out of water and fed it to my children. I had one child who died at seven months, one who was retarded and two who survived."

Washington's sister, Robin Darville, 38, also suffers from a number of ailments that could have been caused by the pollution. She had a stroke that caused memory loss so severe that at first she didn't recognize her mother or husband. "I had to learn to walk all over again," she says. Since her stroke she experiences migraines, pseudo-seizures, and difficulty grasping objects in her right hand. She has also given birth to an underweight infant.

Darville's doctors are puzzled about why she has so many health problems at such a young age. "I think it is because of the contamination," Darville says. "This is personal. Lockheed Martin should pay," Washington's uncle, who worked at the plant, is being treated for berylliosis, a rare disease caused by exposure to the heavy-metal beryllium dust used in the manufacturing of nuclear weapons.

"Tracking Household Illness"

Once news reports of the contamination began to appear, county officials were galvanized into action. They appeared in Tallevast at 8 p.m. one evening handing out five-gallon plastic bottles of water and warning residents not to drink water if it came from a well. Subsequently, all wells in town were capped and aboveground blue plastic pipes were installed as a "temporary hook-up" to county water lines. The plastic pipes remain in place today, four years later. The increase in pressure from the county water hookup caused numerous leaks in faucets and hot water heaters in Tallevast homes and the telephones of Laura Ward and Wanda Washington began ringing with requests for help with plumbing problems.

At a hastily convened town meeting at a church in Tallevast, Lockheed Martin officials assured residents that the danger from the chemicals that had invaded their drinking water was minimal at most. But Ward, Washington and other residents were not convinced; they decided to do their own informal community health survey. For help with this they turned to Helen Worthington, a retired nurse who was well-known and trusted in the community.

Helen E. Beyers Worthington married into the Beyers family, which traces its lineage back to the early days in Tallevast when workers at the "turp camp" would throw potatoes into the boiling sap, where they would instantly cook and bob to the surface covered in a glistening coat that shattered like glass when stuck with a fork.

"We come from hard-working people who sent their children to college," says Worthington, who graduated from Texas A&M with a degree in nursing. A descendant of Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemmings, Worthington joined the Air Force, married an Air Force man and worked for 43 years as a nurse at bases around the world, including Florida, Arizona, New Hampshire, London and Guam.

When first approached about doing a health survey, Worthington was skeptical and thought that she would likely not find any problem. But after a few hours visiting with different families, she changed her mind. She told Ward, "There is something terribly wrong here."

Sitting at a long table in the FOCUS offices across the street from Lockheed Martin, Worthington chronicled the health problems in her community, referring to her notes written in a careful, spidery script on a yellow legal pad. The heading at the top read: "Tallevast Florida: Tracking Household Illness."

Worthington was astonished by the amount of cancer in her small community. She first visited one family and learned that four of seven brothers had died of cancer of the throat and other sites. Next door there were three men in the family with cancer of the liver; their sons were also having liver problems. In another family, she found that eight of ten children had died young of leukemia and brain, lung, and uterine cancer. "This was more than a coincidence," she says.

On February 19, 2005, Worthington did a count of how many residents in Tallevast were living with cancer. She had to count herself as a cervical cancer survivor. Out of 87 households, Worthington found 15 had members with cancer; three of those have since died. This tally did not include those listed above who had already died of cancer or those who probably have cancer but prefer not to admit it.

"In our community, people do not like to admit that they have cancer," she explains. "People here are very proud and do not like to talk about their problems." As an example, she points to a young man in town with lymphoma who is living at home with his grandfather who he has chosen not to tell about his illness.

While it was not part of her survey, Worthington also noted a suspiciously high incidence of miscarriages, sterility, low birth rates, neurological disorders and retardation. Other residents have health problems that will never show up in Worthington's study. Among them are Yvonne (Peggy) Ward's 42 year-old son who has to sleep with an oxygen mask strapped to his face; and Theresa (Pat) Robinson who has a daughter with "breathing problems."

"Almost every house in town has people with health problems," Worthington says, "and it makes me angry that no one from the county or state was paying attention to them." She thinks that the concentration of cancer – the "cancer cluster" -- she found in Tallevast deserves a more formal health study by county or state health officials. While Lockheed Martin and regulatory officials assure residents there are no health problems resulting from the contamination, she doesn't believe them. "By the time the cleanup is finished we all will be dead. People here are frightened but they don't know what to do. I don't want to move because I own my home and I worked for it all my life. If I had known about the contamination earlier I would have moved. It isn't safe to stay here because there are too many unknowns."

Worthington's neighbor Fred Bryant, 78, agrees. "If I were younger I'd move." Bryant has lived in Tallevast all his life and worked as a butler. He doesn't want to move because he loves the close ties he has with other residents. "This is a place where when you cry someone cries with you." But he doesn't want his grandchildren growing up on top of the contamination, which he thinks is causing illness. "You wonder who it will hit next."

Expanding Plume

Not only did Lockheed Martin fail to inform residents promptly about the contamination, the company's declarations about having "found the edge of the plume" and delineated the extent of the contamination can best be described as serially optimistic. With each new phase of testing, the size of the contaminated plume of groundwater has continued to expand like a drop of ink on a wet paper towel.



Helen Beyers
Photo: Steve Lemer

News about the size of the area contaminated by the Lockheed Martin facility unfolded slowly. In July 2003, state officials at Florida's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) approved Lockheed Martin's Contamination Assessment Report, which indicated that most of the contamination was confined to their five-acre site with a small plume extending northeast of the facility. This assessment later proved to be inaccurate.

Donna Wright, a Brandenton Herald reporter, and Wilma Subra, a chemist who advises community residents on technical aspects of contamination problems, pieced together a timeline of events in Tallevast. According to their chronology, Lockheed officials first described the contamination as confined to the company's property. However, the discovery of toxic chemicals

in private drinking water and irrigation wells beyond the boundaries of the plant made it clear that the problem was larger in scale. By 2003 Lockheed Martin officials informed state regulators that the plume of toxics had crossed over into the residential community and they were required to come up with a cleanup plan. By May 2003, a report produced by Tetra Tech to Florida's Department of Environmental Protection confirmed that the toxic plume had spread to a 12-acre area off site.⁵ This was further confirmed in April 2004, when a sampling of water from 17 wells by state and local regulatory officials found five wells outside the established plume of contamination with elevated solvent levels.

The story about the spreading plume of toxics into the adjacent residential community broke in the Bradenton Herald on May 7, 2004. By the end of the month, state DEP and Department of Health officials discovered that the contamination was worse than initially thought.

In a report issued in July 2004, DEP officials reported that previous analysis of groundwater samples "indicated the presence of chlorinated solvents exceeding Florida Primary Drinking Water Standards (FPDWS)." Five irrigation wells and five supply wells located outside the plant property were found to be contaminated with TCE levels that exceeded state standards; arsenic was also detected in a soil sample. State officials concluded that there was a "much larger chlorinated solvent ground water plume, with significantly higher concentrations of chlorinated solvents" than had been delineated by Tetra Tech, the consultant firm hired by Lockheed Martin.⁶ State officials also found evidence that soil samples in residential areas exceeded the state's Soil Cleanup Target Levels for arsenic, barium, lead, benzo(a)pyrene, benzo(a)fluoranthene and Total Recoverable Petrochemical Hydrocarbons.⁷ One soil sample had 1,114 mg/kg of lead. The state standard is 400 mg/kg. Soil samples were also taken from residential properties where dirt taken from the American Beryllium Company property had been used as fill.⁸



Beatrice Zeigler
Photo: Steve Lerner

By June 10, 2004, the results of sampling of well water in residents around the plant showed 9 of 24 wells with traces of TCE. Wilma Subra reported that this sampling, paid for by local residents, revealed that two of the homes had 116 times the level of TCE considered safe. On July 23, 2004, testing samples from the plant site "reveal a reading of the solvent trichloroethylene at 10,000 times the drinking water standard." Subra believes that the toxic plume may originate from multiple sites of contamination on company property. A few weeks later, on August 21, 2004, Lockheed

Martin officials released a report that, Subra wrote, showed TCE "solvent levels in water beneath the plant at nearly 12,000 times the state standard, and in nearby wells at up to 500 times the code."

A year later, in June 2005, after further test wells had been drilled, the company recalculated the contamination as covering 131 acres. Since then the estimate has risen to some 200 acres and still there are questions about outlying contaminated wells beyond this area. Recently, the Florida DEP ordered that Heidi Boothe's cattle herd,

which had been grazing on a farm near Tallevast, be tested after independent tests found the degreaser 1,4-dioxane in her well water.⁹

Using funds made available to them by Lockheed, the resident-led, grassroots group FOCUS hired an independent technical advisor, Tim Varney, who works with the Environ International Corporation in Tampa; as well as Michael A. Graves, a geologist who works for Environmental Sciences & Technologies. After sampling 35 drinking water and irrigation wells, Graves says his testing reveals a "deep diving plume" of contaminated groundwater that has not been adequately delineated and that is moving faster than previously thought. The plume reaches almost to U.S. Route 301 and may have reached the Floridian Aquifer System, which provides drinking water to the majority of people in the state.

Health Impact Controversy

While conceding that the chemicals had spread into the groundwater in the surrounding area, Lockheed Martin officials denied that there was any threat to the health of local residents. "Let me reaffirm that our company is committed to doing the right thing for the residents and has acted responsibly to uphold that commitment," writes Kenneth H. Measley, Lockheed's vice president of energy, environment and safety.

But Subra, who won the prestigious MacArthur "genius" prize for her work with contaminated communities, is less sanguine about the health threat posed by the Lockheed Martin plume. Residents may have been exposed to contaminants by drinking well water and by chemicals in the soil vaporizing and infiltrating into their homes, she explains.

"The contamination is under the residential area and it is at a very shallow depth. These chemicals are very toxic. These people should not be living over the groundwater plume. To have residents living on top of this plume is putting them at risk.... You have to get them out of there."¹⁰ She continues, "This is not a small plume. It is a dangerous plume. It is very deep in some places and very shallow in other areas, and it is under a residential neighborhood. The groundwater below residential areas is less than 5 feet below the surface."¹¹

While some residents were initially hesitant to talk about their health concerns, for fear that news of the toxics problem in town would bring down property values, over time they began to speak out. By April 2006, 400 residents participated in an event organized by local activists at which a health survey was launched. State officials had declined to pay for a health study so residents organized their own and have requested that Lockheed Martin pay for it.

"Residents hope the survey will support their contention that pollution from the former weapons plant is responsible for unusually high rate of cancer, miscarriage, and other ailments in the community of 80 homes," a local paper reports.¹² "How can you ingest this TCE without having consequences?" queries local resident Lewis Pryor, a resident who suffers from diabetes and has no history of the disease in his family.

Routes of Exposure

There are various possible routes by which residents of Tallevast might have been exposed to toxic chemicals that leaked from the Lockheed Martin site. The resulting plume of contaminated water was pumped up from the shallow aquifer and came into

the homes of Tallevast residents and out of their faucets. They drank the water, cooked with it and bathed in it. Their children played in the water from garden hoses. They used it to wash their cars and water their lawns.

Another possible route of exposure is through inhalation of toxic gasses. Lockheed Martin officials agree that VOCs in groundwater are a potential concern but they do not consider inhalation a significant exposure pathway because air concentrations are presumed to be low.

"Such a presumption is not acceptable," observes Subra, who is asking that more vapor intrusion studies to be done in homes when water is in use. Both indoor and outdoor air samples should be taken when faucets are on in home sinks and showers; and when outside irrigation systems are active. "The site assessment failed to include information on vapor intrusion and volatile organics being transported into homes in the residential areas, churches, businesses, and the Community Center from Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) in the shallow groundwater," she writes. She also faults Lockheed Martin officials for their failure to review their strategy for a vapor study with members of the community. In her opinion, this is a mistake - the community should be consulted every step of the way.

Tallevast residents were also exposed to toxic chemicals in dirt that came from company grounds that was spread on the yards of some homes as "fill" when the plant was owned by the American Beryllium Company. Beverley Bradley, 52, a postal employee for 24 years who has lived across the street from the plant all her life, remembers when three truckloads of dirt from the facility were spread in her backyard. An avid gardener who likes to grow flowers and tend her orange and banana trees, Bradley has dark skin lesions on her hands, arms, and feet.

"The problem spread and has never gone away," she says. "I think the contamination may have caused it." Bradley has also had four miscarriages: one child was stillborn, one survived for a few hours, and only one child survived.

"As kids we played in the drainage ditches that came from the plant," Bradley recalls. Company officials came to town offering jobs "and it was something good. Only later did we find out it was not so good. Many of us now feel betrayed and used. I'm angry. My family worked hard to own property to give me and I want to give it to my son but now, because of the contamination, we can't even get a loan to fix up the house or build a new one. We are stuck in a bad situation with no solution. An injustice has been done and someone should pay."

"We Did the Messy Work"

Residents and workers were also exposed to the beryllium dust. Exposure to beryllium, a heavy metal, can cause problems with the respiratory, organ and central nervous systems. According to the accounts of Tallevast residents who worked at the plant, most of them were hired for janitorial and maintenance jobs. Only a few were employed as machinists. "We did all the messy work," says Bruce Bryant, 55, who worked at the plant for six years. The messy work involved milling large chunks of beryllium used in nuclear weapons and cleaning the beryllium dust out of the vents and the plant's attic. "None of us knew what beryllium could do to you," he explains. He is recovering from surgery for a cancer that has spread to his lymph nodes and bladder. "The cancer could be related to my work at the plant."

Sitting with Bryant on folding chairs at the Mt. Tabor Missionary Baptist Church were five other former employees of the American Beryllium Company, including Anthony Smith, Walter Bryant, Norris Bryant, Errol Darville, Clarence Byers, and Morris Robinson. Two of them have cancer and one needs oxygen to help him breathe at night. A number of their co-workers already died of cancer, among them Ernest Smith, Anthony Smith's brother, who died of throat cancer at 29.

"I didn't feel great about working there but I needed the work," says Robert Smith, 78, who worked at ABC for 29 years and now has central nervous system and balance problems. None of the former workers gathered at the church are currently receiving compensation for health problems related to their work at the plant. Bryant comments, "It seems like you have to be dying to get any money."



Rev. Willie Smith
Photo: Steve Lerner

An environmental assessment of the Tallevast plant, conducted by beryllium experts in 1997, described dust residue at the plant as "one of the worst they had ever seen," Subra reports. County blood tests of 241 residents found seven people testing positive for beryllium sensitivity. These findings indicate that Tallevast residents and their families were exposed to beryllium dust, says Dr. Laurence Fuortes, an expert in the field from the University of Iowa. A later accounting of local beryllium exposure reveals that ten local workers tested positive as well as five local residents who did not work at the plant.

Some of the older surviving employees think that working at the plant was lethal for many. "Too many people I worked with are dead. A lot of young ones had nervous system disease and incurable illnesses," says Clarence Byers, 78, who worked for nine years at the plant as a machinist. One of the men who worked at the plant, who just turned 50, used to be a great catcher on a local baseball team and was an excellent athlete, Beyers recalls. "Now he is in a wheelchair because he can't walk and he can hardly talk...his words are all slurred." All the janitors Beyers worked with are now dead, he states. "It's lucky that every damn one of us is not sick."

When he worked at the plant, when machinists made a mistake working on a hunk of beryllium, they would ask a janitor to take the scrap piece and throw it into the plant pond so that no one would know they made a mistake. Apparently unaware of this practice, plant officials would hold a "Fishathon" during which they stocked the pond with trout so that workers and their families could catch fish to take home to eat.

In addition to eating fish likely contaminated with beryllium and breathing in the dust that blew off the factory roof, residents were also exposed to beryllium through the dust brought home on the clothes of employees. One of those affected in this way is Beatrice Ziegler, 71, whose husband, Charlie Ziegler, worked at the plant. "He emptied the beryllium dust for 21 years and came home coughing," she recalls. "Now Charlie can't breathe good." He is undergoing surgery for berylliosis at a hospital in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Ziegler's husband is not the only one in her home with berylliosis: both Beatrice Ziegler and her brother, who also lived in the house, have been diagnosed with the same problem. "I went to me doctor and he said: 'Beatrice, you are full up with

berylliosis and you got it from your husband.” Ziegler says her main symptom is that she is “short of breath” and “some days I can barely walk.” Her husband has an oxygen tank by his chair and his bed to help him breathe. Sleeping is hard because her husband suffers at night. “I wait to sleep because of him and if I am hurting I don’t tell him,” she adds. Ziegler says she and her brother are not receiving any help with their medical treatment from the plant because they never worked there.

Cleanup Plan

Plans are being made to clean up the site, a project that is expected to last over 20 years. Lockheed Martin officials hired Blasland, Bouck & Lee, Inc. to oversee its remediation plan, which is pending approval by state regulators. As a first step, explains Tina Armstrong, Lockheed’s senior project manager for the Tallevast cleanup, the company plans to install 60-gallon-a-minute “pump-and-treat” equipment that will use titanium dioxide and intense ultraviolet light to treat polluted water. The treatment system is said to be effective at destroying TCE and other industrial solvents. The groundwater will be extracted by ten wells, pumped into a 21,000-gallon tank, treated to state standards, and released into the sewer system. Blasland engineers will also search for globs of non-dissolved contaminants -- known technically as NAPLs (non-aqueous phase liquids) -- that may hinder the effectiveness of the pump-and-treat system. Once the water is cleaned to county standards it will be discharged into the county sewer system.¹³ Lockheed spokesperson Gail Rymer notes that there are also plans to drill more off-site test wells to determine how far and how deep the contamination of industrial solvents has spread.¹⁴

But many residents are unsatisfied with the cleanup plan and want to be relocated. On January 21, 2005, Tallevast residents demanded that county officials relocate them and buy out their homes because of the contamination. Six months later, commissioners demanded that Lockheed Martin pay to relocate residents to safeguard them from health risks posed by the underground toxics plume. But since county lawyers began to fear that the county might be sued, the commissioners have not been heard from.

“It is like they took the silent pill,” says Brenda Pinkney, 48, a Tallevast resident who works as a counselor at a community college. After she informed her doctor about the chemical contaminants found in her groundwater, Pinkney’s doctor advised her to get out of town. “Every day it gets scarier,” says Pinkney, who mysteriously lost her hair at age 48 and now wears a wig. “I am afraid Lockheed Martin will admit its mistake too late. They are just going to let us die.”

Lockheed Martin officials say there is no reason to uproot the community because residents are not at risk. After having delineated the 131-acre plume with 137 monitoring wells and 468 soil samples, company officials argue that cleanup efforts should be confined to the plant property, and that soil and water samples of the plume offsite show it poses no threat to health and does not require remedial measures. Despite these assurances, State Representative Bill Galvano told county commissioners that federal, state, and county governments should come up with \$20 million to move the 238 Tallevast residents near the plant to new homes.

On the legal front, lawsuits against Lockheed Martin have been consolidated under the direction of Motley Rice law firm in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.¹⁵ In all, 254 Tallevast residents have joined the suit. While Tallevast lawyers attempted to get the suit moved to the 12th Judicial Circuit in Manatee County, Lockheed Martin attorneys preferred to keep

the case in Tampa federal court. Company lawyers maintain that Lockheed Martin has, as Subra writes, "no responsibility for residents' alleged property damage or illness because work performed at the plant was done for the federal government."

David v. Goliath

Many residents in town are worried that, having taken on Lockheed Martin, which has extensive experience with surveillance, they are now being spied upon, tape recorded whenever they speak, and their cars are being followed. "It's gotten to the point where I can't take a shower without feeling that they are spying on me," says Wanda Washington, vice president of the resident activist group FOCUS. Washington describes herself as having grown up as a person who always saw the best in other people. "You had to prove to me that you were evil." But that has changed since she has been dealing with corporate and regulatory officials. "Now I keep second guessing myself," she says about when she meets people. "Maybe I was just naïve in the past." She is not alone in her sentiments. A number of residents I spoke with said they figured that the FOCUS offices were bugged. Some of them would address comments to unseen spies.

Such paranoia (or realism, depending on how you look at it) is understandable considering the size and expertise of Lockheed Martin. In 2004, Lockheed Martin brought in \$35 billion in revenues, \$17.5 billion of which came from the U.S. Department of Defense. This is the company that builds ballistic missile systems, as well as the Tomahawk, Trident, and Hellfire missiles, and "Star Wars" anti-ballistic missile systems. The company maintains the NASA shuttle and the President of the United States' helicopter fleet; it produces systems for the F35 Joint Strike Fighter and the F-16 multi-role fighter jet, and is being paid to develop a new spy plane. Lockheed Martin also manages the information technology system for the Pentagon and provides intelligence gathering and fingerprint identification technology for the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Transportation Security Administration, among other agencies. "Lockheed Martin will be involved in gathering information on the identities of millions of people in the United States as well as millions of tourists entering the country" through a passenger profiling system, a Polaris Institute report states.¹⁶

To land these contracts and to help the company out when it runs into trouble, Lockheed Martin spent a staggering \$55,373,840 on lobbying between 1998 and 2004, and hired 108 different lobby firms to work on 512 different issues before 59 federal agencies.¹⁷ The company donated over \$7 million in the last three election cycles; and \$915,929 to Congressional candidates in 2004. They made donations to 53 of 62 members House Armed Services Committee, and 51 of 66 members of the Congressional Committee on Appropriations; and 27 of 49 members of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security.¹⁸

Lockheed Martin's Environmental Record

"Lockheed Martin production facilities, past and present," writes Richard Girard for the Polaris Institute, "have also inflicted damage on the land and people who lived and worked near these plants. Much of the pollution from the production process occurred during the Cold War era when weapons manufacturing reached a peak rate and environmental laws in the United States were less stringent. Even though the cold war ended over a decade ago, Lockheed Martin earmarked \$420 million in 2004 toward cleaning up the mess it made during the last 50 years".¹⁹

Given this record, Tallevast residents are not the first (nor are they likely to be the last) community located near Lockheed Martin facilities to sue the company for environmental contamination.

Among the cases that most closely resemble the contaminated plume in Tallevast are ones in Burbank and Redlands, California.

In Burbank, residents won their suit against Lockheed Martin for having polluted local groundwater due to its improper disposal of industrial solvents and toxic chemicals at its "Skunk Works" plant. In all, the company paid \$66.25 million to residents who claimed that the contamination had caused "various illnesses including breast cancer, leukemia, and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma." The company was also ordered by the court to pay most of the \$60 million cleanup costs.²⁰

In Redlands, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board ordered Lockheed Martin to clean up soil and groundwater pollution originating at its facility there at an estimated cost of \$180 million. Some 800 residents sued the company in 1996, arguing that the company had fouled their drinking water with trichloroethylene and perchloroethylene. More residents have since joined the suit. The California Supreme Court recently ruled that each resident must individually "prove they are entitled to medical monitoring."²¹

Farther afield, in November 2004, a court ruling required the company to pay \$110 million to clean up radioactive waste from the production of nuclear weapons in Idaho Falls.²² In June 1999, Lockheed Martin was sued by former employees, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and, in 2003, the U.S. Department of Justice, for having "released uranium-contaminated smoke, steam, and gas into the surrounding communities and dumped nuclear, hazardous, and mixed wastes into ditches, pits, and creeks" on and around their Gas Diffusion Plant (where it manufactured enriched uranium for nuclear weapons) in Paducah, Kentucky between 1984 and 1998.²³

"Not By Might But by Right"

What is striking about the behavior of Tallevast residents in standing up to Lockheed Martin, the giant weapons and surveillance company, is how temperate and patient they have been after discovering they had been drinking contaminated water for decades. "We didn't grow up demonstrating," one resident explained. "We were taught you could get more with honey than with vinegar."

While residents have begun to speak out about the health problems they think have been caused by the contamination, there have been no marches to the county offices or civil disobedient actions. Instead, they have organized regular meetings, held candlelight vigils, and put up signs along the road at either end of town saying, "Welcome to Toxic Tallevast" and "Leaving Tallevast, Decontaminate."

"This is a God-fearing, church-going community," observes Rev. Willie Smith, associate minister of Mt. Tabor Missionary Baptist Church, which was founded in 1907 and has a congregation of 150 souls. "We are strong in our beliefs and we know we will be alright but we need to expose what happened here. There are supposed to be checks and balances in our system of government to protect us from these kinds of problems... but nobody checked."

It is mostly communities of color that are the focal points for the worst contamination problems, Smith adds.

Echoing Smith's view about the racial component of the problem is Rev. Charles S. McKenzie, Jr., who describes himself as a spiritual advisor to FOCUS. McKenzie helps FOCUS with strategic decisions and provides a national perspective. He is also a state volunteer coordinator for Rev. Jessie Jackson's non-profit PUSH. The type of contamination story playing out in Tallevast "is often embedded in communities of color," notes McKenzie. "These communities become dumping grounds and don't have the political clout to stop it."



Rev. Charles S. McKenzie, Jr.
Photo: Steve Lerner

McKenzie credits Laura Ward and Wanda Washington for uncovering the contamination in their community and doing a good job of bringing it to the attention of local reporters, though, he notes, the struggle for relocation had yet to grab the attention of national media. Ward and Washington have done a good job of "channeling the anger in town in creative ways" as well as being "good models and mood-setters for the rest of the community."

"In the black church we are over-comers no matter how large the Leviathan," says McKenzie, falling into a preacher's cadence. "While Tallevast residents face a David and

Goliath contest, it is not size but justice that will ultimately prevail. The strength and ability of community residents has to do with the rightness of their cause. Many battles are won not by might but by right." While he believes that a "Providential Hand" will help Tallevast residents prevail against one of the biggest weapons firms in the world, he also hopes to raise the profile of the Tallevast struggle with Jessie Jackson and with members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

While preachers talk about "David and Goliath" contests and the "Providential Hand," Dr. Clarence (Billy) Ward, the town dentist, is looking for something more worldly. "I'd like to see Lockheed Martin stand up and admit that a wrong has been committed and that they are sincere about making it right," he says, standing next door to his dental surgery practice, in the office building that he and his wife have given over to FOCUS. "Our roots are here and it is unfair that we are being driven from our homes because of the neglect of others. No one can make up for the blood, sweat, and tears that have fashioned the Ward home." Nevertheless, he thinks it only right that Lockheed Martin should foot the bill for the relocation of all residents who want to move, as well as provide "fair compensation" for the health problems and loss of equity that resulted from the contamination that spread from their facility.

Four years ago Ward asked Lockheed Martin officials for a list of other fence-line communities with contamination problems so that he could visit them and see how they have been treated. The company has yet to provide him with a list. "Lockheed Martin officials have been paternalistic towards us by telling us what we need," says Ward, who notes that they want residents to go to company doctors rather than their own. "But we are not all asleep here. We realize that it will take decades for them to get the chemicals out of the water and that there has been an intrusion here."

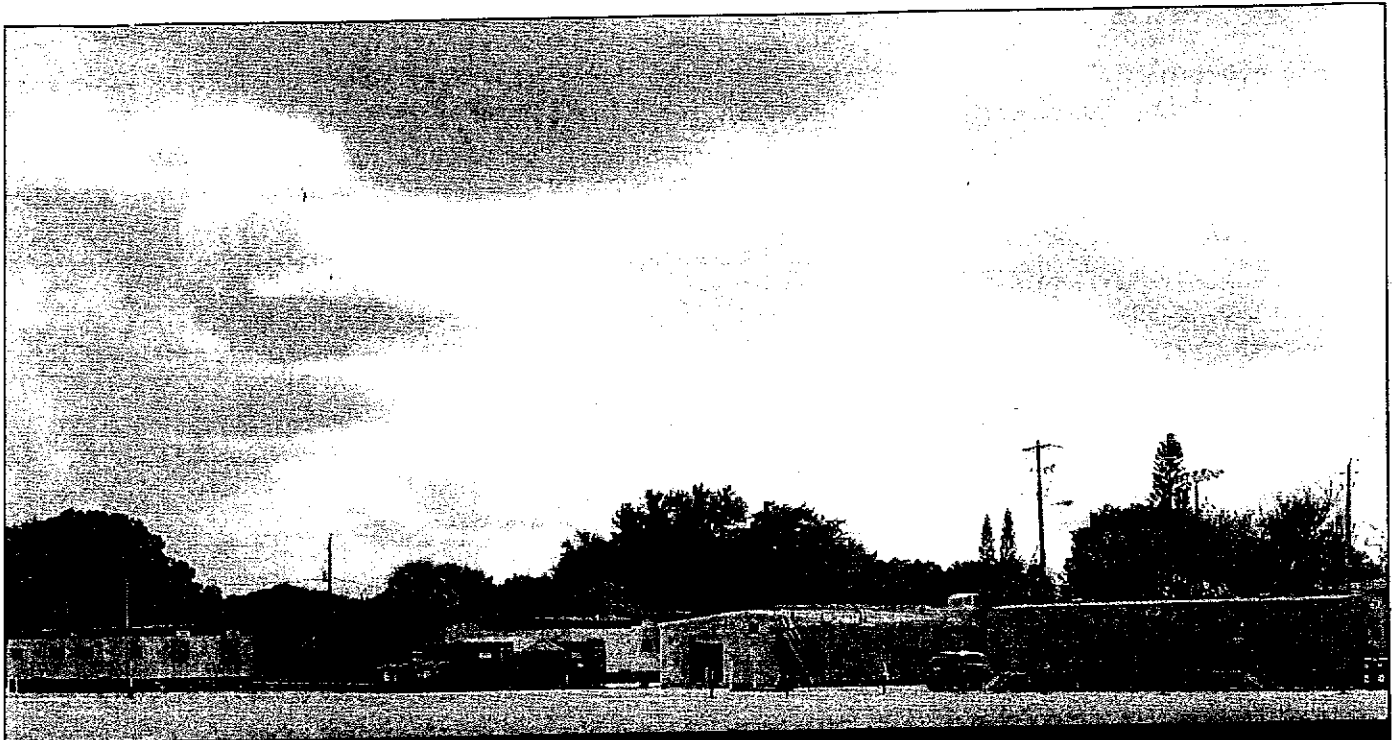
© Steve Lerner 2008

Steve Lerner is Research Director at Commonwealth and author of "Diamond: A Struggle for Environmental Justice in Louisiana's Chemical Corridor" (MIT Press, 2005). You may contact him at [sdlerner \[at\] aol.com](mailto:sdlerner[at]aol.com).

You can read more stories from this series at the Collaborative on Health and the Environment's website, www.healthandenvironment.org.

NOTES

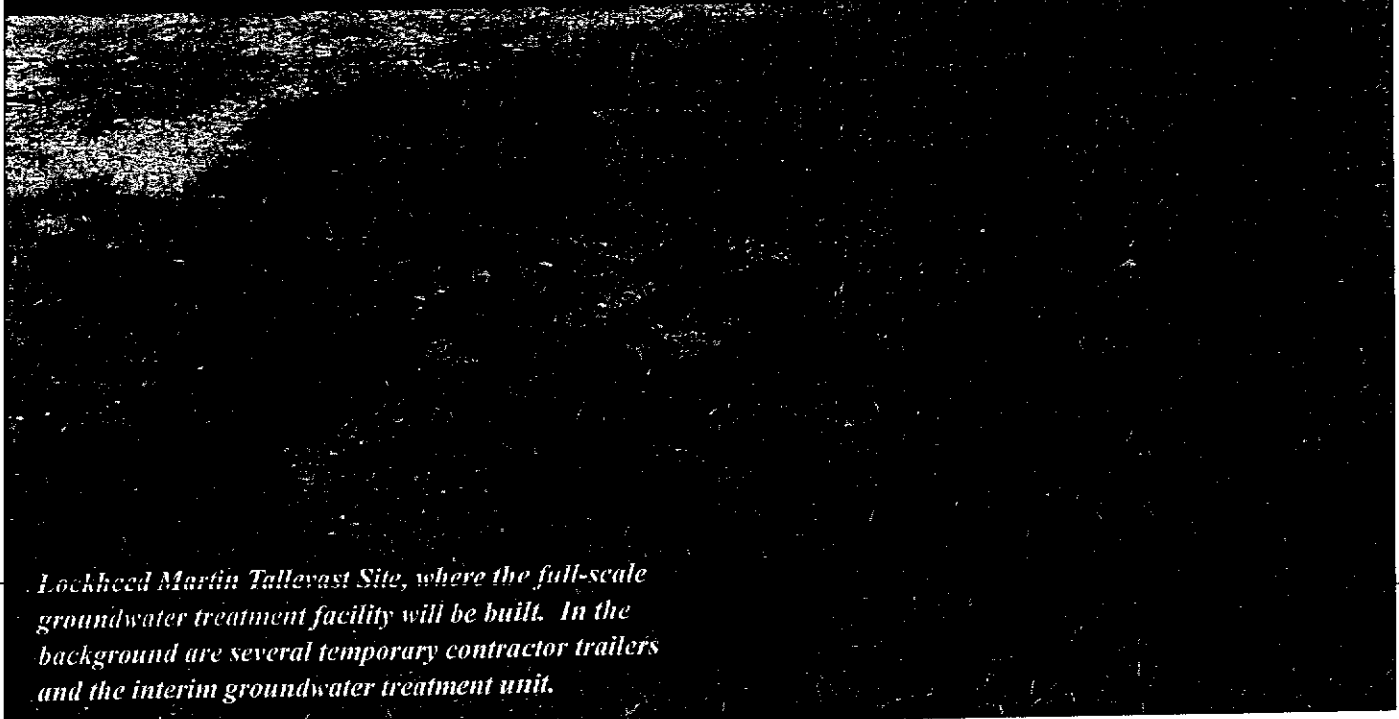
1. Robert Cilek, et. al. for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, "Tallevast Community Preliminary Contamination Assessment Report," (PCAR/FDEP), SIS Report # 2004-01, July 2004
2. Donna Wright, "Tallevast plume history," Bradenton Herald, June 4, 2006.
3. One of the best sources of the history of the contamination in Tallevast is contained in a letter to Winston Smith, director, Waste Management Division, U.S. EPA in Atlanta from Michael W. Sule, Director, Florida Division of Waste Management, www.dep.state.fl.us/secretary/news/2004/tal/epa_letter.pdf
4. Op. Cit., PCAR/FDEP, p.3.
5. Wilma Subra, "Tallevast Timeline of Contamination," undated.
6. Op. Cit., PCAR/FDEP, p.4.
7. Op. Cit., PCAR/FDEP, Cilek, p.13.
8. Op. Cit., PCAR/FDEP, Cilek, p.15.
9. Donna Wright, "Tallevast tests ordered," Bradenton Herald.
10. Ibid.
11. Donna Wright, "Scientist warns of Tallevast dangers," Bradenton Herald, September 18, 2005.
12. Bradenton Herald, April 16, 2006, Opinion.
13. Duane Marsteller, "Tallevast plume 50 percent larger," Bradenton Herald, April 28, 2006.
14. Donna Wright, "Lockheed set to start cleaning Tallevast contamination site: Toxins to be pumped out of groundwater," Bradenton Herald.
15. The Associated Press, TBO.com AP News, September 3, 2005; Donna Wright, Bradenton Herald, May 12, 2006.
16. Richard Girard, "The Weapons Manufacturer that Does it All: A Profile of an Arms Giant. Lockheed Martin," Polaris Institute, November 2005, pp.1,8.
17. Girard, op. cit., p.30.
18. Girard, op. cit., p.29.
19. Girard, ibid, p.34.
20. Girard, op. cit., p.35.
21. Girard, op. cit., p.36.
22. Girard, op. cit., p.21.
23. Girard, op. cit., p.35.



*Understanding the Construction Phase of Lockheed Martin's
Environmental Cleanup at the former Loral American Beryllium Company site*

December 2011

1600 Tallevast Road | Tallevast, Florida



*Lockheed Martin Tallevast Site, where the full-scale
groundwater treatment facility will be built. In the
background are several temporary contractor trailers
and the interim groundwater treatment unit.*

Introduction

Lockheed Martin is building a treatment system to clean up groundwater contamination from the former Loral American Beryllium Company (ABC) site at 1600 Tallevast Road.

The treatment system will contain the plume of impacted groundwater and reduce concentrations of contaminants in the groundwater to meet regulatory standards.

Construction of the groundwater treatment system began in July 2011. Construction of the extraction wells and underground conveyance piping is scheduled to be completed by Spring 2012, and construction of the treatment plant is scheduled to be completed by Fall 2012.

This Citizens' Guide is designed to provide Tallevast residents and other interested parties with information about the construction phase of the cleanup project. It also offers background information on the comprehensive environmental investigation process that Lockheed Martin used to assess the contamination as well as the Remedial Action Plan Addendum that details how the cleanup will be conducted. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) approved the plan in November 2010.

Lockheed Martin assumed ownership of the ABC property in 1996 when it acquired Loral Corporation. Lockheed Martin closed the plant the same year, and sold the property in 2000. In the course of performing an environmental assessment prior to the land sale, Lockheed Martin discovered the presence of volatile organic compounds in shallow groundwater at the site.

Lockheed Martin assumed responsibility for the cleanup, because it owned the property when the contaminants were discovered. The proposed cleanup is expected to reduce the majority of the contamination within the first five years.

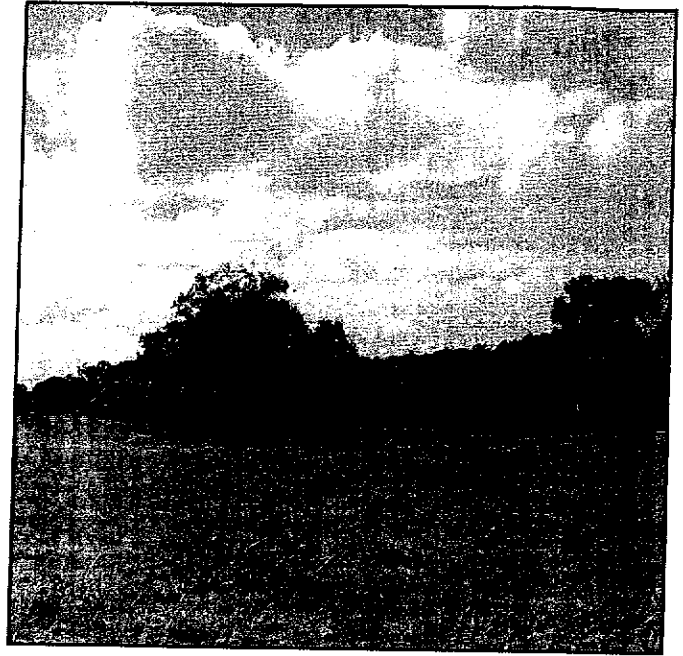
Construction Phase

The Building and Treatment System

What will the construction entail?

The construction will entail the installation of three major components:

- The groundwater treatment plant, which will be built at the Lockheed Martin property at 1600 Tallevast Road. This 14,000-square-foot building



The Schmid farm property, located at 1950 Tallevast Road, following the environmental remediation construction in November 2011.

will house the groundwater treatment system, which will remove contamination from the water.

- The extraction system, which will include 77 extraction wells and four extraction trenches (covered horizontal wells) to extract the contaminated groundwater. The majority of these extraction wells will be located at the Lockheed Martin Tallevast property or on county rights of way.
- The conveyance piping that will convey the extracted groundwater to the treatment plant on the Lockheed Martin Tallevast property.

Has the construction work been approved?

Yes. The work is detailed in the comprehensive Remedial Action Plan Addendum, which was approved by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in November 2010.

What will the building look like?

The building will be fully enclosed, and its architecture will be consistent with the design of local buildings in the Southwest Florida area.

Who is doing the work?

Lockheed Martin Corporation is performing the work and has hired AECOM as its primary contractor.

Do you have the permits you need to do the work?

All permits for construction activities have been obtained from the appropriate state and/or county authorizing regulatory agencies.

Lockheed Martin says it's working in Manatee County rights of way, but how can it be sure it's not working on private property?

Lockheed Martin relies on Manatee County records that delineate rights of way. To validate county records, Lockheed Martin hired a surveying company to review the county records and reconfirm boundary markers on public rights of way.

What to Expect during Construction

What is the timeline for when the construction work will be conducted?

Construction of the extraction wells, extraction trenches and the conveyance piping on the nearby golf course and the extraction trenches on a nearby farm was completed in Fall 2011.

The remainder of the construction will begin in December 2011. Construction of the wells and underground conveyance piping is scheduled to be completed by Spring 2012, and construction of the treatment plant is scheduled to be completed by Fall 2012.

What hours will you be working?

Construction activities will take place during daylight hours. To the extent possible, noisy activities will be limited to the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

What will we see in the community?

Installation of extraction wells will be completed using two to three drill rigs at a given time. Installations of piping will involve the use of a directional drill technique that involves digging two pits and pulling pipe between them. Construction of the treatment building will involve standard building construction activity.

Will there be a lot of truck traffic?

Lockheed Martin contractors have developed Maintenance of Traffic Plans and truck routes to limit the number of trucks on Tallevast road to the greatest extent possible.

Will there be noise?

As with any construction site, there will be noise, but the work will adhere to all Manatee County noise ordinance requirements.

Will you provide an ongoing schedule?

Yes. Our plan is to communicate our activities on an ongoing basis. We will provide weekly updates on the construction progress on our websites, www.tallevast.info and www.lockheedmartin.com/tallevast, and also in printed format. The printed materials will be available at the Tallevast Post Office and at the Citgo Quick Stop Food Store on the corner of Tallevast Road and 15th Street.

What safety measures are in place during construction?

Lockheed Martin and its primary contractor, AECOM, have developed a comprehensive health and safety plan that covers all aspects of the work being performed on site and within the community.

Groundwater Treatment Details about the Treatment System

How will the system treat the groundwater?

The groundwater will pass through an advanced oxidation process (which utilizes ultraviolet light to break down the contamination), resulting in the destruction of organic molecules with no air emissions. Additional treatment will ensure that the water meets all groundwater and surface water standards so it can be reused for wetland replenishment and/or local irrigation.

What will happen to the extracted water?

The groundwater will be pumped from the ground, treated onsite and then either reused or sent to the Manatee County sewer system. The new system will be capable of processing up to 300 gallons per minute.

How will the final system be different than the interim system?

The final system will be a scaled-up version of the current interim system. In addition to the scaled-up treatment process, the system also will include major engineering

Do you have the permits you need to do the work?

All permits for construction activities have been obtained from the appropriate state and/or county authorizing regulatory agencies.

Lockheed Martin says it's working in Manatee County rights of way, but how can it be sure it's not working on private property?

Lockheed Martin relies on Manatee County records that delineate rights of way. To validate county records, Lockheed Martin hired a surveying company to review the county records and reconfirm boundary markers on public rights of way.

What to Expect during Construction

What is the timeline for when the construction work will be conducted?

Construction of the extraction wells, extraction trenches and the conveyance piping on the nearby golf course and the extraction trenches on a nearby farm was completed in Fall 2011.

The remainder of the construction will begin in December 2011. Construction of the wells and underground conveyance piping is scheduled to be completed by Spring 2012, and construction of the treatment plant is scheduled to be completed by Fall 2012.

What hours will you be working?

Construction activities will take place during daylight hours. To the extent possible, noisy activities will be limited to the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

What will we see in the community?

Installation of extraction wells will be completed using two to three drill rigs at a given time. Installations of piping will involve the use of a directional drill technique that involves digging two pits and pulling pipe between them. Construction of the treatment building will involve standard building construction activity.

Will there be a lot of truck traffic?

Lockheed Martin contractors have developed Maintenance of Traffic Plans and truck routes to limit the number of trucks on Tallevast road to the greatest extent possible.

Will there be noise?

As with any construction site, there will be noise, but the work will adhere to all Manatee County noise ordinance requirements.

Will you provide an ongoing schedule?

Yes. Our plan is to communicate our activities on an ongoing basis. We will provide weekly updates on the construction progress on our websites, www.tallevast.info and www.lockheedmartin.com/tallevast, and also in printed format. The printed materials will be available at the Tallevast Post Office and at the Citgo Quick Stop Food Store on the corner of Tallevast Road and 15th Street.

What safety measures are in place during construction?

Lockheed Martin and its primary contractor, AECOM, have developed a comprehensive health and safety plan that covers all aspects of the work being performed on site and within the community.

Groundwater Treatment Details about the Treatment System

How will the system treat the groundwater?

The groundwater will pass through an advanced oxidation process (which utilizes ultraviolet light to break down the contamination), resulting in the destruction of organic molecules with no air emissions. Additional treatment will ensure that the water meets all groundwater and surface water standards so it can be reused for wetland replenishment and/or local irrigation.

What will happen to the extracted water?

The groundwater will be pumped from the ground, treated onsite and then either reused or sent to the Manatee County sewer system. The new system will be capable of processing up to 300 gallons per minute.

How will the final system be different than the interim system?

The final system will be a scaled-up version of the current interim system. In addition to the scaled-up treatment process, the system also will include major engineering



The Suncoast Golf Center, located just south of the Lockheed Martin site, following the completion of the environmental remediation construction in November 2011.

and fail-safe features to ensure the safe operation of the treatment system. It also will include some additional final treatment so that the water that is used to maintain the water levels in the wetlands meets all groundwater and surface water standards.

Will the interim system operate during the construction?

Yes. The interim system will be operated up to completion of the new full-scale system.

When will the groundwater treatment system be operational?

Start up of the entire groundwater treatment system is scheduled for Fall 2012.

Will the new system be safe?

The system includes multiple safety systems that will shut down the process if there is a leak or anomaly in the

process. The treatment building is designed to contain over 100 percent of the total water volume, should a leak occur, to ensure no release of untreated water. All conveyance piping will include dual containment (a pipe within a pipe) so that if there was a leak it would be fully contained and captured within the system.

The Path to Construction

Why This Work Is Being Done

What groundwater contaminants were discovered?

Several groundwater contaminants were detected, including 1,4-dioxane, tetrachloroethene (PCE) and trichloroethene (TCE).

How did Lockheed Martin determine the scope of the contamination?

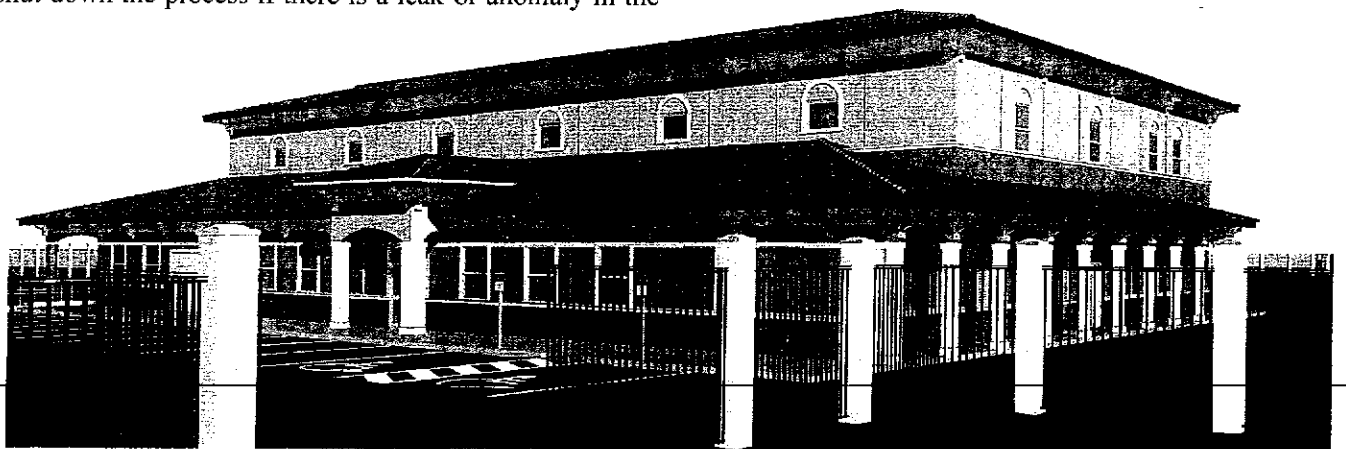
Lockheed Martin conducted extensive investigations, collected significant design data, and gathered input from the FDEP and the community's independent technical experts to ensure the contamination was fully investigated and delineated.

Lockheed Martin collected groundwater samples from more than 275 monitoring and 11 extraction wells.

The Corporation also developed a detailed, three-dimensional groundwater model that was used to predict whether the remediation would be effective and how long it would take to complete the cleanup.

How was the groundwater data used?

The results of the computer modeling helped the experts determine the best methods for placing wells, controlling the spread of contamination, and removing the contaminants. To ensure its accuracy, the model was calibrated against



Artist rendering of new treatment facility.

actual on-site tests, which validated that the computer modeling was accurate.

The Cleanup Plan

Are all of the details of the plan in one place?

Yes. Lockheed Martin submitted its Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Addendum to the FDEP on July 14, 2009. The RAP Addendum is the culmination of substantial work conducted by Lockheed Martin, its contractors, the local community's technical experts, community members, and the state to design the best solutions for reducing human exposure to on-facility soil and for cleaning up groundwater from the former American Beryllium Company site.

What is the RAP Addendum based on?

The RAP Addendum was developed based on assessments of the facility, assessments of the site geology and hydrogeology, characterization of the nature and extent of soil and groundwater impacts, an evaluation of remedial technologies, and forecasts of time required to complete the cleanup.

The RAP Addendum incorporates suggestions from the FDEP and members of the community on design, construction and other processes. The RAP Addendum also incorporates information included in previous remedial action plans submitted to the FDEP in May 2007 and August 2008.

What did Lockheed Martin do to minimize health risks?

Lockheed Martin has worked to prevent further contamination and to ensure drinking water safety for residents. In 2006, the Corporation implemented an interim groundwater treatment system and a well-closure program to reduce the potential for human exposure to impacted groundwater and to limit the chances that the groundwater contamination could spread.

Since it was installed, the interim groundwater treatment system has extracted and treated millions of gallons of groundwater. The well-closure program has offered incentives to close private water supply wells within the cleanup area. Manatee County continues to restrict the construction of new supply wells in the area. In conjunction with the well-closure program, Lockheed Martin also paid for connections to the Manatee County public water system for those households that did not have public water supply.

The groundwater treatment system will contain the plume of impacted groundwater and reduce concentrations of contaminants in the groundwater to meet regulatory standards.

Lockheed Martin also paid the fees for the community's technical consultant to conduct air monitoring. The results of the air monitoring indicate that the concentrations of site-related contaminants were below the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Permissible Exposure Limits and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) Minimum Risk Levels in all ambient air samples collected during previous remedial activities.

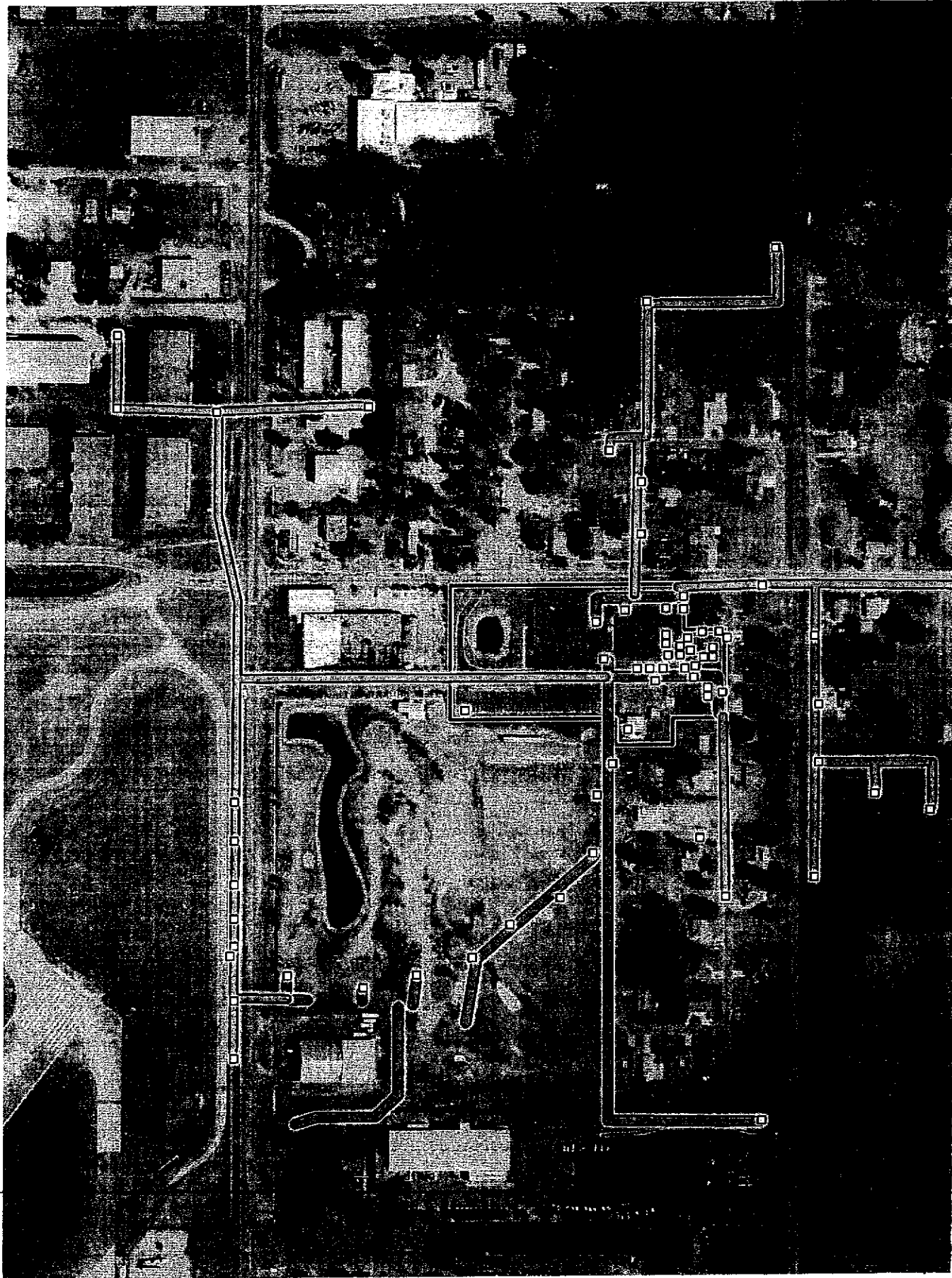
Property Background

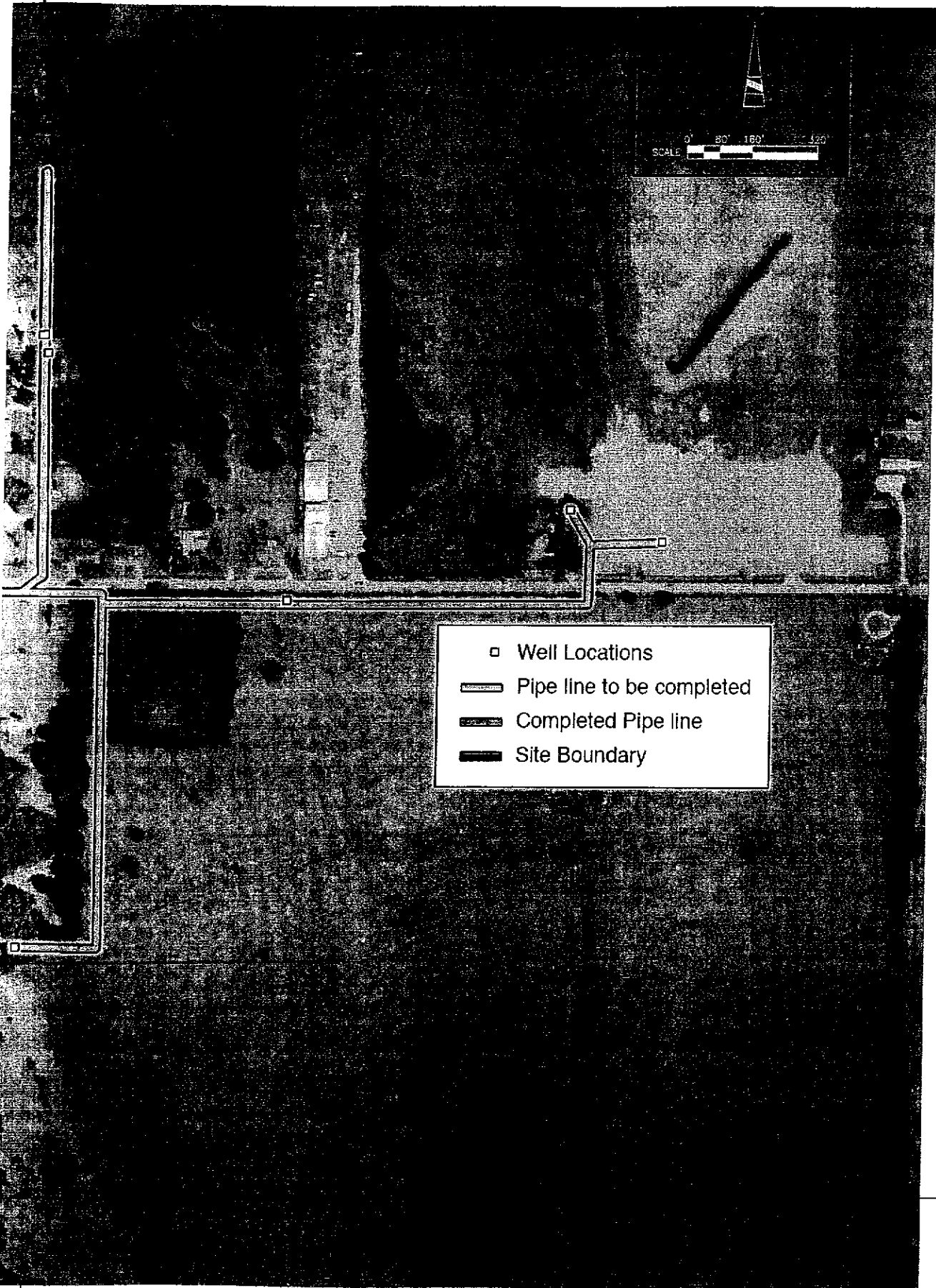
What is the history of the property?

The former ABC facility was operated by Loral Metals Technology as an ultra-precision machine parts manufacturing plant from 1961 to 1996. There, metals were milled, lathed and drilled into various components. Some of the components were finished by electroplating, anodizing and ultrasonic cleaning.

Lockheed Martin assumed ownership of the property in 1996 when it acquired Loral Corporation. Lockheed Martin stopped operations at the facility in late 1996, and in 2000, sold the facility. The new owner leased the facility to other companies until June 2007, then leased to Lockheed Martin for two years. Lockheed Martin repurchased the property in June 2009.

Lockheed Martin assumed responsibility for the environmental investigation and cleanup at the site, because it owned the property when the contaminants were discovered in 2000.





- Well Locations
- Pipe line to be completed
- Completed Pipe line
- Site Boundary

For more information:

On the construction of the groundwater treatment system, the Remedial Action Plan Addendum and other Lockheed Martin activities in Tallevast, go to www.tallevast.info or www.lockheedmartin.com/tallevast.

Contact information:

Gary Cambre, Communications
Lockheed Martin Corporation
2940 University Parkway
Sarasota, FL 34243

941.554.3862
1.800.449.4486

gary.cambre@lmco.com

LOCKHEED MARTIN
We never forget who we're working for.

2940 University Parkway
Sarasota, Florida 34243

James W Bryant
1614 13th Ave. E
Bradenton, FL 34208-3307

CHATTANOOGA
TN 374 3.1
NOV 19 11 2003



Building Dismantlement is Next Step In Cleanup Efforts

As Lockheed Martin Corporation continues the environmental cleanup of the former Loral American Beryllium Company (ABC) site in Tallevast, Fla., the Corporation's next step is to dismantle three buildings at the 1600 Tallevast Road site.

The two-month dismantling project will begin on December 1 to make way for a new treatment facility designed to clean up groundwater contamination associated with former ABC operations.

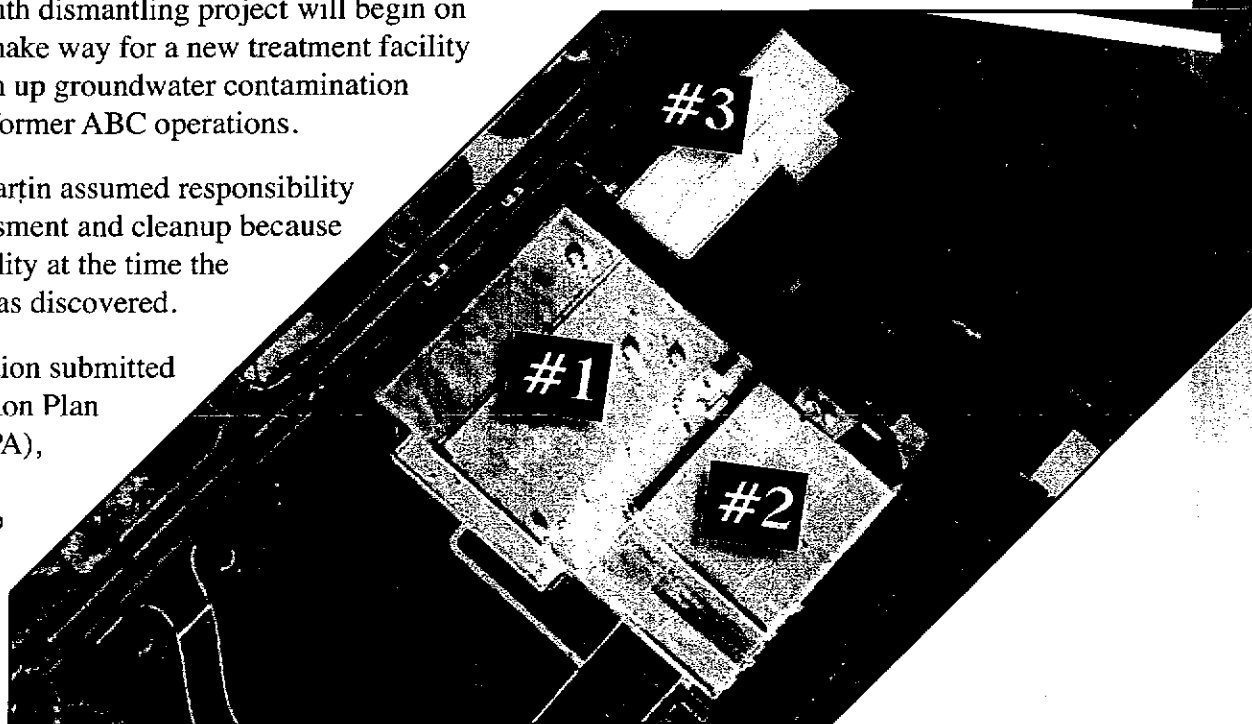
Lockheed Martin assumed responsibility for the site assessment and cleanup because it owned the facility at the time the contamination was discovered.

The Corporation submitted its Remedial Action Plan Addendum (RAPA), which details the proposed cleanup at the site, to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) in July 2009.

The FDEP issued the RAPA approval order, and Lockheed Martin is moving forward with preparations to construct the groundwater treatment facility. The preparations include dismantling the remaining buildings (Buildings 1, 2 and 3) on the property.

The dismantling work will be done with the safety of the community and employees in mind. Lockheed Martin also is striving to minimize the inconvenience to the surrounding community.

As the work proceeds, Lockheed Martin will keep the community informed through a variety of communications, including written materials and updates on the Tallevast.info website (www.tallevast.info).



This satellite image shows the buildings that will be dismantled at the former Loral American Beryllium Company site in Tallevast, Fla.



The buildings at 1600 Tallevast Road will be dismantled to make way for a new groundwater treatment facility.

Commonly Asked Questions

How does the building dismantlement fit into the overall cleanup plan?

Buildings 1, 2 and 3 are being dismantled to make room for the new 14,000-square-foot groundwater treatment facility that will be built at the site. Removing these buildings also provides more room for staging construction materials and for construction crews to operate on the property.

What company is doing the dismantling work?

The dismantling work will be done by AECOM, the same company that successfully dismantled Buildings 4 & 5 in Fall 2008.

What were the buildings used for?

Buildings 1 and 2 housed primary machining areas, a warehouse area, stock room, quality assurance laboratories and offices. The single-story buildings total about 44,000 square feet, are steel frame and concrete, and were built in the 1960s.

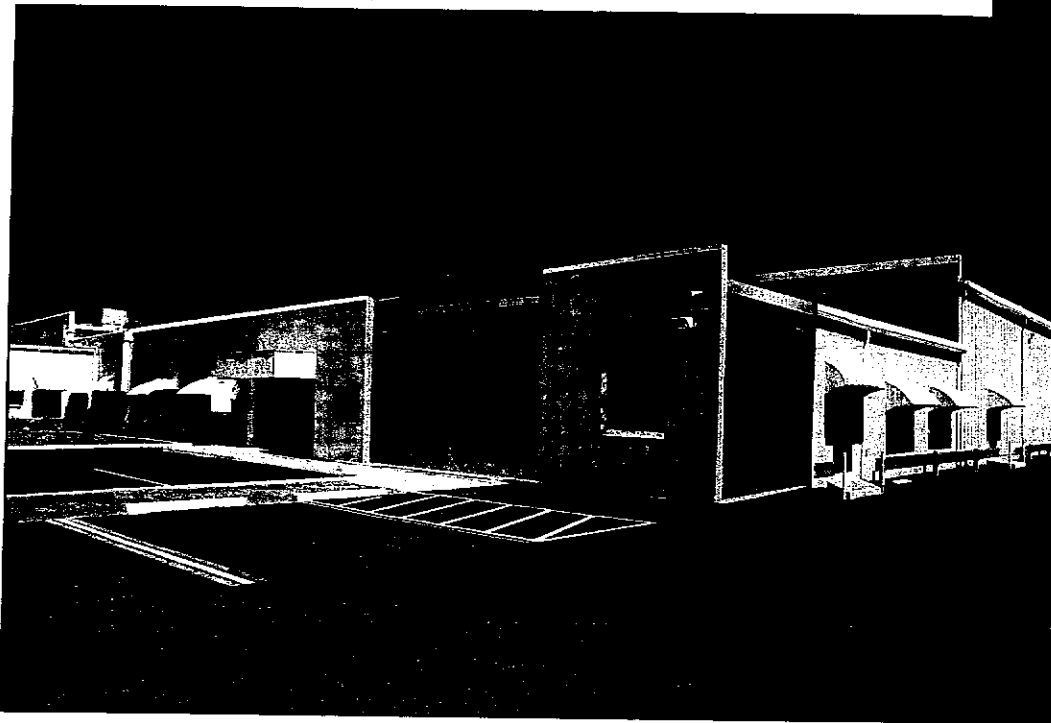
Building 3 housed machining areas as well as offices and a cafeteria. The 7,000-square-foot, single-story building has a steel frame and steel siding and was built in the 1970s.

How are the buildings being prepared for dismantling?

Before the dismantling occurs, a thorough interior cleaning is being conducted to remove dust with a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) vacuum. Floor tile and carpet are being removed, then the floors are being cleaned. Interior lighting fixtures, ceiling tiles, air conditioning ducts, and interior walls and glass also are being removed.

When will the interior work be conducted?

The interior cleaning began in September and will be completed in December. The interior of Building 3 was cleaned first, and that work was completed in early October. The interior of Building 1 will be completely cleaned by mid-November, and the interior of Building 2 will be fully cleaned by mid-December.



This photo conception depicts Building 2 and what it will look like as the walls are removed.

What will the building dismantlement entail?

Building dismantlement will entail:

- Coating all remaining interior building components with a liquid lock-down encapsulant before dismantlement begins.
- Removing heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) systems from all three buildings.
- Dismantling the buildings, beginning with Building 3 and ending with Building 1.

What is the timeline for the dismantlement?

The dismantlement will begin on December 1 and will end in late January.

What safety precautions are being taken?

Safety precautions include:

- Installing temporary fencing and having 24-hour, on-site security.
- Installing a temporary netting on the northeastern portion of the property, east of Building 3, to prevent dismantlement debris fragments from accidentally leaving the property.
- Using water misting to control dust.
- Ensuring that materials such as asphalt roofing, steel and concrete are separated and broken into manageable pieces for transport and recycling or disposal.
- Using trucks equipped with tight-fitting covers to prevent dust emissions and prevent rain from contacting the debris being transported.

Are trucks being used during the interior cleaning phase?

Yes. Trucks are carrying materials from the building interiors. They are not traveling through residential neighborhoods. They leave Tallevast by driving west on Tallevast Road to 15th Street.

Will there be a lot of truck traffic?

An average of two or three truckloads per day will leave the site during the dismantlement.

What is the truck route?

The route is the same as the one used by trucks carrying materials from inside the buildings. Trucks will not travel through residential neighborhoods. They will leave Tallevast by driving west on Tallevast Road to 15th Street.

Will this work dig up soil or groundwater?

There will not be any impact to the soil or groundwater. All of the work is being done above ground.

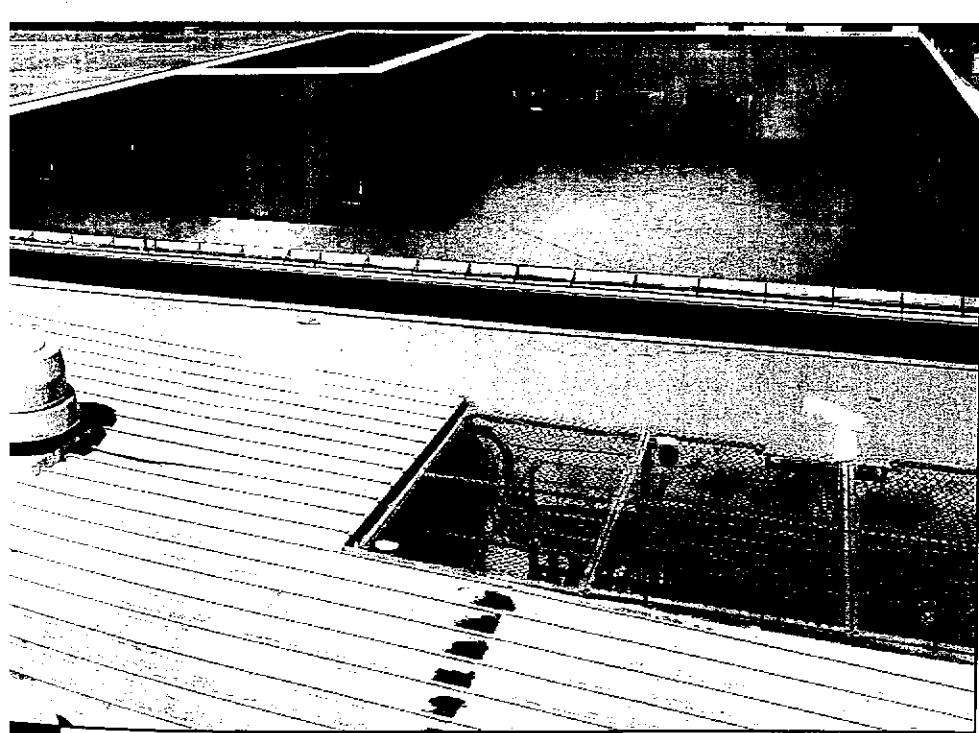
How much will this work impact the community?

Lockheed Martin believes that this dismantlement poses no health threat to the community, based on extensive air-monitoring data gathered during the dismantlement of Buildings 4 and 5. Lockheed Martin is doing everything possible to minimize the inconvenience to the surrounding community. Processes are being put in place to reduce noise.

Will the community be relocated during the dismantlement?

Extensive air-monitoring data gathered during the dismantlement of Buildings 4 and 5 was used to determine that temporary relocation is not necessary during the dismantlement of Buildings 1, 2 and 3. Based on the data, Lockheed Martin believes that the

dismantlement poses no health threat to onsite personnel or the community.



This photo conception depicts what Building 1 will look like when a portion of the roof has been removed.

