

## GERALD ADAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - PUBLIC NOTIFICATION NOVEMBER 2017

- This public notice has been prepared to provide notification about an environmental issue discovered during the implementation of construction at the Gerald Adams Elementary School (GAES). This notice was issued in accordance with Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Notice Requirements for Schools per Chapter 62-780.220(6), Florida Administrative Code (FAC). The notice is intended to provide current information about site conditions to the general public, and to the GAES employees, teachers, parents and children. The following is a summary of past site documentation, current conditions and proposed activities for the school. *Records of the assessment are available to the public thru the Freedom of Information Act and via the FDEP's online database resources.* Further public notifications are to follow on an as-needed basis until completion of the new school per State requirements.
- Recent environmental assessments have been conducted at the GAES by the School District and findings reported to the FDEP (Site ID COM\_355111). Assessments have identified the presence of heavy metals and petroleum-related constituents above FDEP cleanup target levels, which were attributed to the historic in-filling of the subject property and surrounding properties circa 1960s. Evidence of degraded garbage, metals, plastic, wood, and glass fragments were observed to be mixed with soils beneath the site. The buried debris and adjoining landfill have resulted in the accumulation of vapors containing low concentrations of petroleum constituents and methane. However, confirmation sampling did not detect Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) above the USEPA Vapor Intrusion Screening Levels (VISLs), and methane readings were below the lower explosive limit (LEL). Therefore, the potential pathways for exposure from these impacts are thru dermal contact (touching the soils, debris or groundwater), inhalation of fugitive dust, and/or ingestion (eating the soils or drinking the groundwater).
- A plan was approved by the FDEP to manage the impacts through a Soil Management Plan (SMP), which provided guidance on how to minimize disturbance of the impacted media during construction of the new school. The GAES General Contractor has been following the SMP, which included protocol for dust control, erosion, control, and worker health and safety. As such if workers were to be in direct contact with potentially affected media, then they may wear disposable protective clothing, such as white coveralls, gloves, and dust masks. However, based on adherence to the SMP and dust control protocol, exposure pathways for the public, including GAES employees, teachers, parents & children, beyond the work area have been minimized. The public does not need to take special precautions with regard to working or going to school, beyond staying out of the construction zones.
- Areas at the GAES currently used by teachers, parents, children and other School District employees are covered with permanent surfaces (i.e. the building or paved areas) to restrict access or contact with impacted soils, debris and groundwater. Further, the overlying surface of the relocated playground area at the GAES has been covered with 2-feet of clean fill and rubberized mulch.
- Current and future groundwater usage at GAES is restricted and no irrigation or drinking wells are present onsite. All future site irrigation and drinking water will be provided by the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority.
- The majority of the GAES site is currently under construction with the new school. Access to the construction zones by school employees, parents, children and the public is restricted until construction is complete. Access may only be granted thru the School District and the General Contractor following safety orientation. Following completion of the new school facility, the impacted soils will be covered with permanent surfaces, buildings or two-feet of clean fill and grass, which collectively will create a surficial Engineering Control barrier to minimize potential exposure to underlying affected soils. Institutional controls will be employed by the School District to memorialize the known impacted areas, and require maintenance of the Engineering Control and provide a protocol for handling affected media if disturbed in the future. The FDEP will issue a Site Rehabilitation Completion Order with Conditions (SRCOC) upon completion of the project.

For additional Information, please contact Mr. Michael Skrodinsky, Maintenance Supervisor with the Monroe County School District.