



State of North Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

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Contact: Debbie Crane (919) 733-9190

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SOIL TESTS FIND NO PROBLEMS AT FOUNTAIN TRAILER PARK

RALEIGH -- N.C. State Health Director Dennis McBride today announced that soil samples from the Fountain Trailer Park in Edgecombe County showed no significant risk for residents of the trailer park.

The sampling was conducted after allegations that the trailer park, which houses victims of Hurricane Floyd, was sited on a hazardous waste landfill and that residents were in danger. The trailer park was built on top of a landfill that contained coal fly ash.

"We did worst case testing, deliberately sampling where the soil was darkest and looked as if it contained coal dust," said Dr. McBride. "Our sampling found no significant risk for residents of the trailer park. In fact, according to our risk analysis adults and children could have daily contact with the soil for up to 70 years without any adverse effects.

"We can assure the residents of Fountain Trailer Park that the soil is not a problem," he added. "Although we found nothing, I have asked the Division of Emergency Management to make sure that they keep any areas that look as if they contain coal fly ash covered."

The risk assessment was relayed in a letter to occupants of the trailer park. The letter from Dr. McBride, which was hand-delivered today, urged residents to contact him in the event of any health concerns. "I'm sorry if you have been needlessly worried in the past few days. Life after Floyd has been very tough for your community, and these past few days have probably added to your stress," the letter said. "I can assure you that as state health director, I take your concerns seriously. I am committed to protecting you and your family's health."

McBride and officials with the Division of Emergency Management will meet with the residents 7 p.m. Thursday at the trailer park. "We want to sit down with the community and give them an opportunity to ask us any questions they may have," he said. "Our goal is to always protect the public health."

At peak operations, the Fountain Trailer Park had 370 units. Today it houses 168 units, many of them occupied by Princeville residents. The Division of Emergency Management plans to move many of the Princeville families to another mobile home park in Princeville by the end of the month.

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