



## Hudson K-8 School

3300 F.L. Shuttlesworth Drive  
Birmingham, Alabama 35207

April 5, 2011

Dear parents:

You may have noticed work crews removing soil, spreading new soil and laying new sod on areas of the campus at Hudson K-8 School. I wanted to inform you of why the work is being done.

Recently, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required Walter Coke Inc. (formerly Sloss Industries) to perform a soil sampling investigation at multiple community locations near its facility, including around the old Hudson school building. Tests showed that polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) were present at unacceptable levels. These contaminants can come from a variety of sources, both industrial and non-industrial. Some of the non-industrial sources, which can come from neighboring areas, can include exhaust from cars, burning leaves and trash, roofing tar and even from outdoor grilling and cigarette smoke.

By the time the results of those samples were verified, the new school had opened, the old building had been demolished and significant landscaping had been done on the site. In August 2010, EPA required Walter Coke to conduct additional soil sampling.

The second round of soil sampling results showed improved but still unacceptable levels of PAHs in some soils at the rear of the school, which has now been fenced in. This resulted in Walter Coke removing the affected soils and replacing the soil with clean fill. Sod will be replaced on parts of the Hudson campus very soon. Now that the soil has been replaced, the potential risk has been reduced to safe levels.

We want to assure you that the health, safety and welfare of our students are of primary concern to the Board of Education and district and school administration. We will continue to consult with EPA and will take any steps that may be needed to protect human health and the environment.

Sincerely,

Jesse Daniel

Principal

**For More Information:**

**Health Questions on PAHs:** Visit [www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts69.pdf](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts69.pdf). You may contact the federal health agency that works with EPA, called the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), for questions about the properties of PAHs; Dana Robison at 770-488-3744 or the CDC hotline at 1-888-422-8737. Keep in mind that they can discuss the potential health effects of exposure to PAH's, but note they cannot discuss an individual's medical conditions, provide medical care or make a diagnosis.

**Medical Questions:** Contact your physician, the Alabama Department of Health, local health clinic or the Southeast Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU) at (404) 727-9428 or [www.sph.emory.edu/PEHSU/](http://www.sph.emory.edu/PEHSU/). Robert J. Geller, MD, Pediatric Toxicologist and Professor of Pediatrics, Emory University School of Medicine, stated, "The effects of exposure to any hazardous substance depends upon the dose, the duration, how you are exposed, personal traits and habits. In this situation, given the vegetation and limited contact with soils, data suggests that the dose posed little risk in the short term, but cleaning up soils prevents longer term exposures."

**Soil Sampling or Removal:** Contact Brian Holtzclaw, EPA Community Engagement Coordinator, at 404-562-8684; [holtzclaw.brian@epa.gov](mailto:holtzclaw.brian@epa.gov).

**School Issues:** Call principal's office, 231-3000; or Bob Morgan, Director of Capital Projects, 205-231-2082.