

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

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Chemical Characteristics of Ditch Cleanings in Florida

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OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of this study is to determine the characteristics of ditch cleanings and recommend proper management practices to handle the wastes based on our results. The specific objectives are:

1. Collect representative and typical ditch cleaning samples throughout Florida;
2. Characterize the wastes chemically and physically including the contents of selected 503 metals and selected organic contaminants;
3. Evaluate the potential adverse impacts on water quality and most cost-effective ways of managing these wastes.

WORK ACCOMPLISHED DURING THIS PERIOD

1. Held several meetings between the two working groups to discuss the sampling strategy and progress.
2. Met with the public works team of Clay County to ascertain their participation and necessary cooperation for detailed ditch cleaning sampling throughout the county.
3. Prepared appropriate sampling protocols.
4. Sent 60 sampling kit to established cooperators located in various cities and counties across the state who agreed to collect and provide a sample from their county/city. *A total of 39 samples were received this way, which covered all geographical regions of the state.*
5. Carried out a detailed sampling of ditch cleanings in the Clay County. *A total of 39 samples were collected from this county to address the role of various probable factors that may affect chemical composition of ditch cleanings.*
6. All samples were processed as required for the subsequent analyses of selected 503 metals and organics.

WORK TO BE ACCOMPLISHED DURING NEXT PERIOD

1. Develop QA/QC plan to be used for the required analyses of selected 503 metals and organics
2. Digest and analyze the samples for the selected 503 metals.
3. Extract and analyze the samples for the selected organics.
4. Evaluate and analyze the data and write the final project report.