



Florida Department of
Environmental Protection
Bob Martinez Center
2600 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400

OSBORNE REEF WASTE TIRE REMOVAL PILOT PROJECT

Division of Waste Management
Solid Waste Section
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The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) implemented the waste tire management program in 1989 to ensure that all of Florida's waste tires are disposed of properly or constructively utilized. Since the inception of the waste tire management program, more than 20 waste tire sites have been abated, or cleaned up, under DEI' contracts, totaling more than 5,000,000 waste tires. The Osborne Reef will be the first underwater waste tire site to be abated by the DEI' waste tire management program.

During this 30-day project in June 2007, DEP plans to abate the tires retrieved from the Osborne Reef, using current year abatement funds. The DEP waste tire abatement contractor will supply the trailers that will be placed on the Army landing craft unit for the tires retrieved, and will manage the transportation of these trailers. All tires retrieved during this 30-day project will be transported to a waste tire processing facility in Georgia, where they will be processed into tire-derived fuel (TDF). The TDF is an important energy source for industrial plants and will be used in a Georgia plant that recycles old newsprint.

The 30-day pilot will determine what comes next for the complete removal project. The next steps for the DEI' include planning the full three-year abatement of the tires based on lessons learned from the pilot and exploring additional recycling options for the tires. DEI' will continue to work with private industry to determine the most cost effective way to dispose of the tires. This means using tire processors to determine which recycled tire products are the most profitable to offset the cost of tire disposal. Through this process, we are able to reduce the estimated cost of tire disposal at the Osborne Reef Waste Tire Site from \$17.00/tire, a cost estimate in a study done in 2001, to approximately \$2-00-\$3.00/tire. The Florida Legislature has recently granted the DEI' a special \$2 million appropriation for the Osborne Reef tire abatement.

For more information visit:

www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/tires/default.htm