

DEP Worker Knew Of Pollution In '99

AZALEA RESIDENTS NEVER INFORMED

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The Tampa Tribune

ST. PETERSBURG — State regulators knew a toxic plume of industrial waste was migrating from a defense plant toward the Azalea neighborhood at least nine years ago, newly obtained records show.

By 2001, the pollution problem had concerned a Florida Department of Environmental Protection staff member enough that he prepared a letter for the agency's district director, Deborah Getzoff.

The letter instructed Raytheon Network Centric Systems, owner of the plant at 1501 72nd St. N., to reassess the risk to the public and to notify neighbors with irrigation wells.

It was never sent.

"I was thinking why so many years did they

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Residents learned of pollution from Tribune reports.



Keyword: Wells, to see where contaminated wells have been found, and to search a database of irrigation wells near the plant.