

Florida DOH Wants Your Comments!

June 2006

Plant City, Florida

Florida DOH/ATSDR Draft Public Health Assessment Report for the Coronet Area *Now Available*

About Florida DOH and ATSDR

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) reviews environmental sampling taken from sites where chemicals have gotten into the air, soil, or water. The federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) funds this program to determine the risk for nearby residents. We work closely with county health departments (CHD). DOH reviews data from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

About the Coronet Site

The Coronet Industries contaminated former phosphate mining and processing facility is at 4082 Coronet Road, about 2 miles southeast of Plant City. The plant operated until April of 2004. It was both a phosphate mining area and phosphate rock processing facility. The entire site, including the mine area and processing plant, is about 1,322 acres. In the early 1900s, natural deposits of phosphate rock were mined from the northern part of the site. Later, phosphorus was removed from the rock. The plant used phosphorus from the phosphate rock to make animal feed supplements. Coronet also made a boron-containing product.

In January 2003, a Plant City resident asked ATSDR to look into area illnesses. Since then, ATSDR and Florida DOH have written several reports about the site. Two reports looked at chemicals found in the soil and private drinking water wells. Two more reports checked urine samples from 106 nearby residents. Another report looked at area cancer rates. A sixth reported on chemical levels in fish from ponds near the site. Last fall, a seventh report reviewed tests of ambient (outdoor) air collected in 2003 around Coronet.

The current draft report reviews the public health threat of wastewater discharged to English Creek and addresses community health concerns. It also incorporates the seven previous Florida DOH/ATSDR reports regarding nearby private drinking water wells, off-site soil, fish, air, urine testing, and area cancer rates.

***The Florida DOH has found the area around the Coronet site to be
“no apparent public health hazard.”***

Come to learn more at the Florida DOH Open House:

*Springhead Elementary School
3208 Nesmith Road, Plant City
Thursday, June 15, 2006
Any time from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.*

Conclusions

Based on the available environmental data reviewed for this and previous reports, Florida DOH and ATSDR categorize the area around the Coronet site as “no apparent public health hazard.” Levels of contaminants measured in urine of nearby residents, private drinking water wells, off-site surface soil, fish,

outdoor air, and off-site surface water are not likely to cause illness. Environmental test data are insufficient, however, to determine the public health risk from exposures before 2003. The number of cancer cases reported in the Plant City area between 1990 and 2000 are not unusual.

If use of the Coronet site changes from industrial to commercial or residential, on-site environmental data should be reviewed to determine the health threat for site users.

Status of Recommendations from Past Florida DOH/ATSDR Reports

1. Conduct blood lead testing on three people found to have elevated urine lead levels.

Status: In January 2004, the Hillsborough CHD offered free blood lead testing to these three people. However, they did not respond to the offer.

2. Retest those private drinking water wells with concentrations less than the drinking water standard but more than ½ the drinking water standard.

Status: Every six months since May 2004, the Hillsborough CHD has retested approximately 20 of the wells targeted for sampling. A few of the wells retested were above the drinking water standard for arsenic. These homes have been supplied with bottled water.

3. Residents whose private drinking water wells have contaminant levels above a drinking water standard should continue drinking bottled water or water from another source.

Status: The Florida DEP has continued to supply bottled water to people with private drinking water wells above a drinking water standard.

4. Children and women of childbearing age who eat fish from ponds on the Gregg Enterprises property should follow statewide fish consumption guidance. This guidance recommends only one 4-ounce serving of fish per week for children and one 8-ounce serving of fish per week for women of childbearing age.

Status: Florida DOH continues to provide fish consumption advisories for lakes and rivers throughout Florida. The Hillsborough Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) continues to educate county residents about fish consumption advisories.

5. Gregg Enterprises property owners should maintain their fence and no trespassing signs to reduce physical hazards (drowning or snake bites).

Status: The county health department confirmed that the warning signs are being maintained.

Recommendations from This Draft Report

1. Review on-site environmental data to determine the health threat for future users, if the Coronet site land use changes from industrial to commercial or residential.

Please fill out the attached form with your comments on the draft report.

We want your input by July 28, 2006.

*You may pick up a copy of the report at the Hillsborough County Health Department at
1105 East Kennedy Boulevard
Tampa, FL 33675-5135*

Or have it mailed to you by calling toll-free (877) 798-2772

Or see it online at:

*www.myfloridaeh.com/community/SUPERFUND/pha.htm and scroll down to Draft Documents, then to
Coronet Public Comment PHA*

You can submit comments online or mail them to us.

Please share this update with family, friends and neighbors living in this area!

Comments and Questions Concerning the Coronet Area, Plant City, Florida



Please circle the answer that most describes what you think.

- | | | | | |
|--|------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 1. This fact sheet was clear. | Yes | Mostly | Somewhat | No |
| 2. Florida Department of Health (DOH) told me about the chemicals it found at the Former Coronet Industries Mining and Manufacturing Facility. | Yes | Mostly | Somewhat | No |
| 3. I now know that at least one of the chemicals on this site was found at elevated levels. | Yes | Mostly | Somewhat | No |
| 4. I now know what part DOH plays at the site. | Yes | Mostly | Somewhat | No |
| 5. I now know Florida DOH and ATSDR categorize the area around Coronet as "no apparent public health hazard." | Yes | Mostly | Somewhat | No |

My comments are _____

Optional (So we can contact you to answer your questions)

Name: _____ Phone (813) _____

Address: _____ Plant City, FL Zip code _____

Mail to:

Attention: Randy Merchant
 Florida Department of Health
 Bureau of Community
 Environmental Health
 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A08
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1712