

## Environmental Impact Studies Conducted at Coronet

Since August 2003, numerous studies have been conducted in and around the Coronet facility to characterize whether company's operations have had environmental impacts on the surrounding area that could affect the health of nearby residents. Coronet has worked — and will continue to work — with all governmental agencies conducting studies and will continue its own environmental characterization efforts.

The table below summarizes key studies and findings regarding environmental and public health effects of Coronet's operations. Overall, the environmental testing indicates that serious health risks for on-site workers or nearby residents are not likely from Coronet's operations.

### **Key findings include:**

- Cancer studies showed no statistically significant differences between the rate of cancer for the community adjacent to Coronet Industries and the rate of cancer for all of Hillsborough and Polk counties and the state of Florida as a whole.
- Fish samples taken from ponds on the nearby Gregg Enterprises property were found to pose no apparent risk to the public.
- An evaluation of private drinking water samples by Florida DOH found no risk to public health resulting from trace contaminants found in a select number of private wells.
- Air quality tests found conditions around the Coronet property to be the same as generally found in the county.
- Soil tests found that local soils are safe for residential areas and have not been significantly impacted by Coronet.
- Direct testing of residents' urine showed that any trace levels of chemicals that may have been found were not likely to cause illness.

Doug Holt, director of the Hillsborough County Health Department, was quoted by the *Tampa Tribune* on March 17th, 2004 as saying, "Your water is safe to drink. Your air is safe to breathe. Your homes are safe to live in." A comprehensive Public Health Assessment is due for release in the fall of 2004.

This report was prepared using reports and public comments of regulators as well as media reports on relevant studies.

### **Regulatory Agency Abbreviation Key**

<p><b>ATSDR</b> = U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry <b>DEP</b> = Florida Department of Environmental Protection <b>DOH</b> = Florida Department of Health <b>EPC</b> = Environmental Protection Commission (Hillsborough County) <b>FCDS</b> = Florida Cancer Data System <b>HCHD</b> = Hillsborough County Health Department</p>
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**Table 1 – Summary of Significant Environmental Studies related to Coronet Industries, Inc.**

<i>Study</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Regulatory Body</i>	<i>Methodology</i>	<i>Results</i>	<i>Next Step</i>
<b>Fish Testing</b>	July 2004	DOH, ASTDR	<p>“Florida DOH and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) collected 88 fish (largemouth bass and blue tilapia) from four ponds on Gregg Enterprises property in February 2004. Fillet samples were analyzed for mercury and organochlorine pesticides. In addition, fish from Pond #4 were analyzed for dioxins and furans because they were the largest, oldest and most abundant specimens collected.” (DOH, “Exposure Investigation,” July 2004)</p>	<p>“Fish from ponds at the Gregg Enterprises site pose <b>no apparent public health hazard.</b></p> <p>“Levels of dioxins/furans, mercury and organochlorine pesticides found in fish at Gregg Properties Enterprises property near the Coronet site do not warrant testing of people who eat these fish. (DOH, “Exposure Investigation,” July 2004)</p>	<p>Results will be re-calculated after new DOH advisory levels are in place.</p> <p>No additional testing.</p>
<b>Surface Soil Tests</b>	June 2004	EPC, DOH, ASTDR	<p>“EPC tested approximately 40 surface soil samples surrounding the Coronet Industries site for metals, including arsenic, boron, lead, mercury and cadmium. In addition to metals in all 40 samples, 18 soil samples were tested pesticides, herbicides, (PCBs), volatile organic compounds and gross alpha radiation. These 18 samples included 10 from the Gregg Enterprises property and 8 samples in the Lincoln Park community. The Gregg Enterprises.” (DOH, “Evaluation of Surface Soil Samples,” June 2004)</p>	<p>“For current and future surface soil exposures, the Florida DOH and ASTDR categorize the surface soil in the area around the Coronet, including the Gregg Enterprises and the Lincoln Park community as <b>no apparent public health hazard.</b> Contaminants found in surface soil are not at levels expected to cause illness by repeated, daily exposure over 30 years.” (DOH, “Evaluation of Surface Soil Samples,” June 2004)</p>	None.

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<b>Cancer Study</b>	March 2004	DOH/FCDS	“Using U.S. census and Florida Cancer Registry data, incidence rates were calculated for certain cancers in the population residing adjacent to Coronet Industries.” (DOH, “Investigation of Cancer Incidence,” March 2004).	“For the cancers analyzed during the time period studied, there was <b>no statistically significant increase</b> in the number of observed cancer cases in community adjacent to the Coronet Industries when compared to the expected number of cases [which] were based on the cancer rates for the state or the cancer rates for Hillsborough and Polk counties combined.” (DOH, “Investigation of Cancer Incidence,” March 2004).	None
<b>Well Water Testing</b>	March 2004	DOH/DEP/HCHD	“The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Hillsborough County Health Department (HCHD) tested approximately 145 area wells for metals and volatile organic compounds. The Florida DOH tested 43 of these wells for gross alpha radiation. Of these 43, Florida DOH tested wells with more than 5 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) of gross alpha radiation for radium 226/228 and uranium .(DOH, “Evaluation of Private Drinking Water Well Samples,” March 2004).	“For current drinking water exposures, the ATSDR categorizes the risk to public health as a <b>no apparent public health hazard</b> . Contaminants found in drinking water do not generate an exposure dose large enough to represent an imminent health threat.” (DOH, “Evaluation of Private Drinking Water Well Samples,” March 2004)	

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<b>Urine Testing</b>	March 2004	DOH/ ATSDR/ HCHD	“In August 2003, U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) collected urine samples from the residents included in the first round of private drinking water well testing. . . . The laboratory tested for boron, cadmium fluoride, lead, and uranium. These are the chemicals found at Coronet that residents may have been exposed to.” (Florida DOH Newsletter, March 2004).	“ <b>None of the chemical levels in residents’ urine . . . are likely to cause illness.</b> ” (Florida DOH Newsletter, March 2004).	None.
<b>Dust Samples from Resident’s Roof</b>	February 5, 2004	EPC	“On January 9, 2004 . . . EPC of Hillsborough County staff obtained samples of dust from the galvanized sheet roofing from the dwelling located on . . . Tom Brewer Lane, Plant City, Florida. The two cut-off pieces of roofing provided were also included as samples.” (Rama Iyer, EPC, letter to resident, February 5, 2004).	“Microscopic examinations of these samples show that <b>none of the material detected in the samples match</b> the feed rock or the finished fine product material from Coronet.” (Rama Iyer, EPC, letter to resident, February 5, 2004).	None.
<b>Air Testing: Gaseous Hydrogen Fluoride</b>	December 4, 2003	EPC	“EPC has . . . commenced testing for airborne hydrogen fluoride gases with a specialized hydrogen fluoride analyzer from the EPA.” (Dr. Rick Garrity, Hillsborough County EPC Update, October 8, 2003).	“So far <b>we haven’t found anything we attribute to Coronet Industries.</b> ” (Leroy Shelton, Assistant Director of EPC’s Air Management Division).	None.
<b>Air Testing: Dusts/ Metals Fluoride</b>	October 2003	EPC	EPC “installed three new specialized dust/metals monitors [in the vicinity of the Coronet plant.] These monitors . . . sample every three days for 24-hour periods.” (EPC, October 8, 2003).	“Initial test results indicate that <b>dust and metals are similar in concentrations to other areas of the county.</b> ” (Dr. Rick Garrity, Hillsborough County EPC Update, October 8, 2003).	DOH report on health aspects of air sampling gathered by EPC due in summer/ fall 2004.

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<b>Soil Testing</b>	September 8, 2003	EPC	“The EPC took soil samples from 21 locations and analyzed them for 11 inorganic compounds and water soluble fluorides. The 11 compounds are: arsenic, antimony, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, cobalt, lead, manganese, nickel, selenium. and boron.” (EPC, October 8, 2003).	“Results showed that local soils did not appear to be significantly impacted by dust fallout from Coronet, and that the <b>soils were safe for residential areas for the 12 substances EPC tested.</b> ” (Dr. Rick Garrity, Hillsborough County EPC, September 8, 2003).	None.
<b>Howell Creek Water Testing</b>	August 2003	EPC	“Water samples from tributaries flowing into Howell Creek from Coronet Industries show levels of four metals that exceed state water quality standards.” ( <i>Tampa Tribune</i> , October 28, 2003).	The higher levels of metals were detected in water samples taken from tributaries next to holding ponds on Coronet property, said Chris Dunn, director of the EPC’s water division. “ <b>By the time they moved downstream I believe they would be so diluted that their impact would be minimal.</b> ” (Chris Dunn, Director of EPC’s water division, <i>Tampa Tribune</i> , October 28, 2003).	In November 2003, EPC referred the Howell Creek investigation to the DEP. No further test results have been released.