

**For Immediate Release**

October 8, 2003

***NEWS BRIEF***

***EPC Evaluates Soil and Air Samples Around Coronet Junction***

Tampa, FL -- The Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County (EPC) has completed an evaluation of initial air monitoring samples and additional air deposition soil sampling in the vicinity of Coronet Industries. Both reports are summarized in the attached documents.

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### **Summary of Air Sampling around Coronet Junction**

Because of citizens concerns about the air quality in the vicinity of Coronet Junction, the Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) of Hillsborough County installed three new specialized dust/metals monitors in the area. These monitors are located around Coronet Industries (see map) and sample every three days for 24-hour periods. The preliminary results of the filter analysis on the limited number of samples collected from Aug 22 - Sept 12, 2003, included in the attached report, indicate that the dust and metals in the air around Coronet Junction are generally the same as or less than those collected at other similar monitors running in Hillsborough County and Pinellas County. Winds on the sampling days, recorded at EPC's Plant City High School monitoring site, were light, and the three samplers generally registered similar readings, none of which could be attributed to any single source at this time.

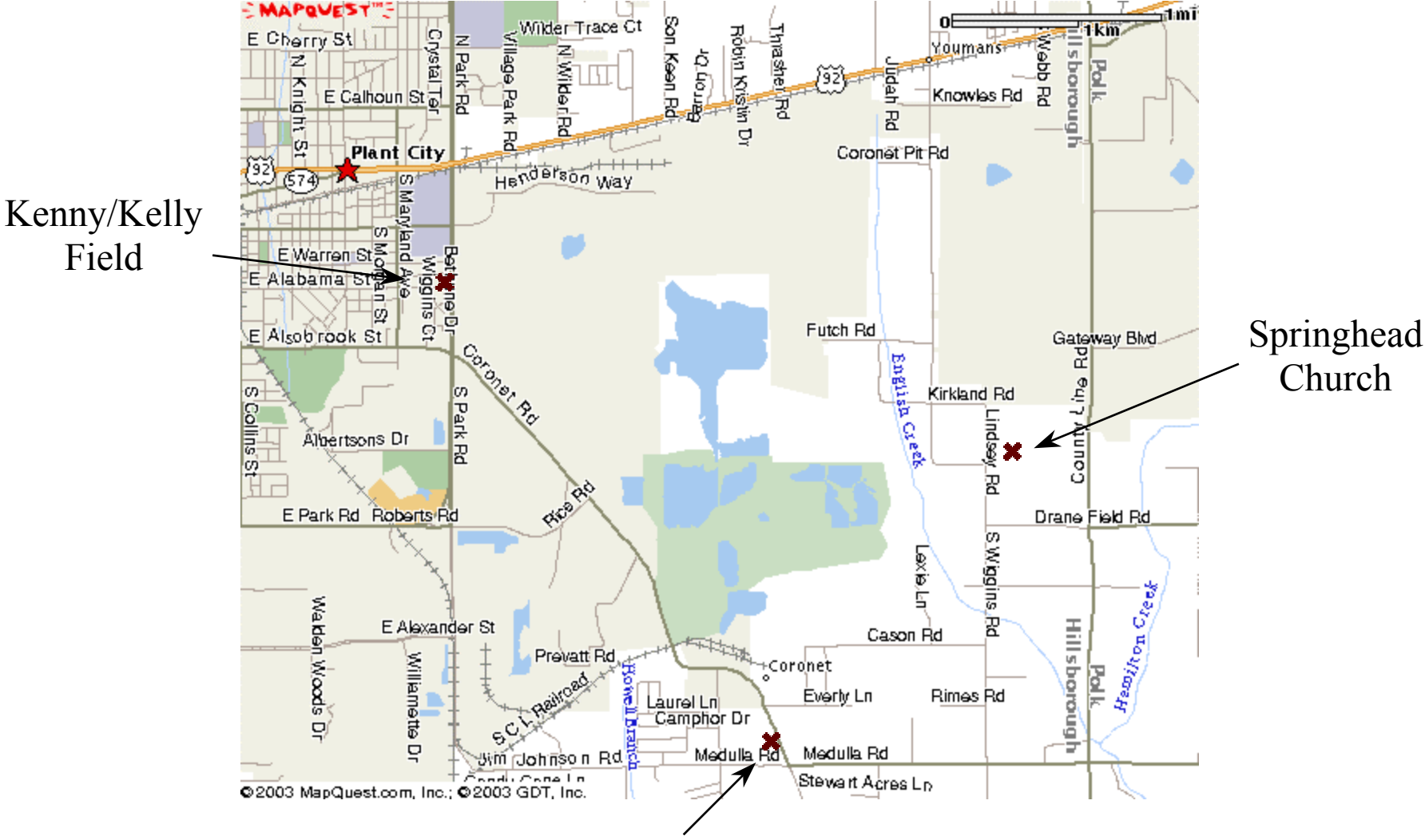
These preliminary results are being forwarded to State and County health officials for inclusion in their health assessment of the Coronet Junction area. The preliminary review only looks at the airborne threat presented by these compounds and does not take into account other possible pathways of entry into the human body, such as ingestion or dermal contact. Qualified health officials need to review the data for any other possible health effects.

Even though the air in the vicinity of Coronet Junction appears to be generally the same as other areas, EPC has again confirmed some concerns previously identified to the public. As EPC staff presented to the Board last year, the EPA's Cumulative Exposure Project (1998) and the National Air Toxics Assessment (2002) stated some air toxics were present in urban areas at elevated levels. There are some metals in the air in every urbanized area around the country, including Florida and the Tampa Bay area, which exceed EPA's health benchmarks. These metals include arsenic, cadmium, and chromium, which are emissions generated in part from combustion of fossil fuels, such as coal and fuel oils. EPA has previously identified these metals, along with a number of other compounds, as compounds of concern. These 33 compounds are called Urban Air Toxics, and EPA, in conjunction with State and local agencies such as EPC, is concentrating efforts to reduce these compounds, by confirming their levels through modeling and monitoring, and by reducing these concentrations to safe levels through regulation.

Because of the collective regulatory efforts of EPA, the FDEP and EPC, additional air pollution controls were recently installed on waste incinerators in the Tampa Bay area, and the conversion of TECO's Gannon power plant from coal to natural gas, EPC expects to see a decrease in these emissions in the future.

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# Air Monitoring Sites



Kenny/Kelly  
Field

Springhead  
Church

Fire Station #25



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### **Summary of Air Deposition Soil Sampling around Coronet Junction**

In an effort to determine the impact of air pollution from Coronet Industries depositing on the surrounding area, the EPC collected soil samples and analyzed them for toxic metals. Hazardous metals like arsenic, lead and cadmium are found naturally in soils. In the process of making animal feed supplements, metal compounds may be released into the atmosphere as small particles. These particles or pollutants are carried by the wind and may settle in the surrounding environment. If present, pollutants such as metals may be transported into surface waters, leached into groundwater, or inadvertently ingested during normal human activity. The severity of health impact from atmospheric deposition of air pollutants depends on the concentrations found in surface soils. Therefore, soil testing was completed to evaluate the long-term deposition of pollutants to the surface.

The locations for soil sampling were chosen according to the predominant wind directions and the expected areas of greatest impact in the local communities. Preliminary air dispersion modeling showed the highest concentrations of particle deposition would occur from 300 meters to 1200 meters outside the facility. The EPC took soil samples from twenty-one (21) locations and analyzed them for eleven inorganic compounds and water soluble fluorides. The eleven compounds are: arsenic, antimony, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, cobalt, lead, manganese, nickel, selenium, and boron. The levels of arsenic, antimony, and selenium were below the detection limits of the laboratory testing equipment. All metals analyzed were well below direct exposure levels for residential areas when detected. These guidance levels are established to protect human health under normal outdoor activities in residential areas.

More comprehensive air deposition modeling will be conducted with the assistance of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The air deposition model will factor in locally-specific meteorology and account for all sources of air pollution at the Coronet facility. The results will provide a more realistic estimate of pollutant deposition.

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# Soil Sampling Locations

