

Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2003 5:38 PM

Subject: ARSENIC AND BORON IN WELL WATERS NEAR TAMPA BAY

Hi Ken;

Are you aware of this?

Awaiting your reply and warmest regards to all,

Alfie

Environment - 8/21/2003 1:48:08 PM

Well water near plant tests positive for arsenic, boron

TAMPA BAY, FL — Residents living near the Coronet Industries facility in Plant City, FL, have unsafe levels of boron and arsenic in the water, according to [Bay News 9](#).

Hundreds of people showed up at Marshall Middle School Aug. 19 to hear what they can do about the problem and what's being done for them. Homeowners in the area claim the Coronet plant is the source of the problem, the news station reported.

In the past, the company has been cited for numerous environmental issues in regard to pollution. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection is providing filters, bottled water and osmosis systems to the residents affected.

A law firm that focuses on environmental cases is considering taking the case. Melissa Dutcher, a researcher with the firm Brockovich and Masry was on hand for the proceedings.

"[I heard] a lot of interesting stories and received a lot of anecdotal information so far," Dutcher said in the report. "Not sure [if we'll take the case], this is in the very infant stages."

The Brockovich part of the law firm is Erin Brockovich, the subject of a movie released in 2000 starring Julia Roberts. Brockovich and Masry became famous as the legal team that forced utility company Pacific Gas & Electric to pay \$333

million in 1996 to settle a water contamination lawsuit brought by the town of Hinckley, CA.

Several people living near the Coronet plant have complained of health problems. Last month, members of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, the US attorney's office and several state and county environmental agencies met to discuss the Coronet plant, the news station said.

The 100-year-old facility is under orders from state and county regulators to clean-up water pollution caused by the plant, the station reported.