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**PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ISSUES  
WELL SURVEY REPORT FOR FORMER PLATING INDUSTRY PROPERTY**

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) today released findings from a November 2009 irrigation well sampling project in the vicinity of the APF/4800 site, a former metal plating business in St. Petersburg. Residents whose irrigation wells were sampled were notified of the results through letters and phone calls.

Some irrigation wells sampled had minor exceedances of drinking water standards for iron, sodium, manganese and aluminum. However, all residences are connected to the public drinking water system. Although the results exceeded drinking water standards for certain minerals, the wells were determined to be safe for use for irrigation. Coming in contact with the well water or breathing its vapors was determined to not be a public health threat.

It is safe to use the wells for lawn watering, skin contact, breathing water vapors, eating fruits and vegetables grown with the water and similar purposes. It is not certain at this time that these metals are related to the metal plating operation site or naturally occurring in the area.

The sampling was conducted by the Pinellas County Health Department under contract with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Wells within a 500-foot radius of the former APF plating business at 4800 95<sup>th</sup> Street North in St. Petersburg were sampled. The DEP's Southwest District Office is working with the Florida Department of Health to continue to analyze the data.

For any health information regarding the use of the wells, call the Pinellas County Health Department's Well Surveillance Information Line, (727) 538-7277, extension 1157.

For information about DEP's cleanup and report, call Ana Gibbs, Department of Environmental Protection, (813) 632-7600, extension 475.

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