

Dragon, Karen E. (CDC/NIOSH/EID)

From:

Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2007 9:39 PM

To:

WBESCwhudak@aol.com;

block.arthur@epamail.epa.gov; jab25@health.state.ny.us;
jhd01@health.state.ny.us; rdenz@co.broome.ny.us; rcknizek@gw.dec.state.nv.us; NIOSH
Docket Office (CDC);

Pinkerton, Lynne (CDC/NIOSH/DSHEFS):

Subject: Fwd: Erin Brockovich may attend Dr. Clapp meeting June 26th

Attachments: Inquiry from Brockovich.com (Possible speaking engagement for Erin)

It's not confirmed yet but I received a call from Erin Brockovich's office this evening: <http://www.masryvitoe.com/> : She would like to attend the Dr. Clapp's presentation and contribute to the WBESC stakeholder meeting this June 26th. They have to move a couple items around in their schedule first. If for some reason they can't make the June 26th event, they indicated another date was possible because she is committed to coming to Endicott. I'll keep you posted when I get a definite date. Here is Erin's website:
www.brockovich.com/

The biography is very interesting: http://www.masryvitoe.com/erin_brockovich.shtml and <http://www.brockovich.com/bio.htm> It's an honor that she would volunteer for gratis: Her normal speaking engagement fee is \$25,000.

In the letter, I sent to her, I emphasized the importance of drawing attention to outdated OSHA standards. Her assistant said she is looking forward to meeting Dr. Clapp.

Again, I want to reiterate, The Brockovich appearance for June 26th has not been confirmed but looks good. I'll keep you posted. If it is, we may have to move the meeting place into the main part of the church or schedule the UE high school auditorium. This will likely draw a lot of interest.

Her movie was on cable a couple nights ago. It was excellent: I found her very interesting to converse with when I spoke to her in Ithaca a couple years ago. Very personable. I'm keeping my fingers crossed:

See what's free at <http://www.aol.com>.

Erin Brockovich

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ERIN BROCKOVICH

Erin Brockovich Biography

May 24, 2007

I grew up in Lawrence, Kansas, the youngest child of an industrial engineer and a journalist. After graduating from Lawrence High School I attended Kansas State University for one year, then moved to Dallas, Texas, where I earned my Associate in Applied Arts degree at Wades Business College.

After college, I moved to Southern California where I worked for K-Mart as a management trainee before taking a job at Fluor Engineers and Constructors to work and study to become an electrical design engineer. It was at this time when I decided to explore the world of beauty pageants. Although I won the title of Miss Pacific Coast, I quit after a year and married a restaurant manager.

My husband and I moved back to Kansas where my two older children, Matthew and Katie, were born. In 1987, we settled in Reno, Nevada, before I divorced my first husband. As a mother of two children and newly single, I got a job as a secretary at a local brokerage, where I met a stockbroker. We married in 1989 and I gave birth to my youngest daughter, Elizabeth. In 1990, my marriage ended in divorce. I was again a single mother, this time with three children to feed and clothe.

After being seriously injured in a traffic accident in Reno, my kids and I moved back to Southern California where I hired Jim Vititoe of **Masry & Vititoe** to handle my auto accident case in 1991. Not long after my case was resolved, I was hired to work at the law firm as a file clerk. While organizing papers in a pro bono real estate case, I found medical records in the file that caught my eye. After getting permission from one of the firm's principals, Ed Masry, I began to research the matter.

My investigation eventually established that the health of countless people who lived in and around Hinkley, California, in the 1960's, 70's and 80's had been severely compromised by exposure to toxic Chromium 6. The Chromium 6 had leaked into the groundwater from the nearby Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Compressor Station. In 1996, as a result of the largest direct action lawsuit of its kind, spearheaded by me and Ed Masry, the giant utility paid the largest toxic tort injury settlement in U.S. history: \$333 million in damages to more than 600 Hinkley residents.

My investigating inspired the hit movie "Erin Brockovich", which highlighted my legal triumph and personal challenges. Released in March 2000 by Universal Studios, it starred JULIA ROBERTS as myself. The

movie's great success led to numerous awards and nominations, including 5 Academy Award nominations and one win. Steven Soderbergh was nominated for an Oscar for "Best Director," and Julia Roberts won an Oscar, a Golden Globe, and a BAFTA Award for "Best Actress" for her portrayal of me.

From the exposure of the movie, I became a reluctant public figure. Over time, I realized I could use my notoriety to spread positive messages of personal empowerment and for me to encourage people to stand up and make a difference. This led to my first television project, an ABC special entitled "Challenge America with Erin Brockovich." It taped in New York and aired in December 2001. This feel good program is best described as "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" on steroids, but preceded that successful series. I set out to motivate and organize hundreds of volunteers and donated resources to help rebuild a dilapidated park in downtown Manhattan a few months following 9/11.

I then hosted the Lifetime series "Final Justice." This series recreated incredible stories of actual women, their perilous situations and how they overcame adversity. I followed that up with my book entitled "Take It from Me, Life's a Struggle, But You Can Win."

Presently, I am one of the most requested lecture clients of the William Morris Agency. I travel the world doing personal appearances spreading motivational messages, telling my story and telling of my personal life lessons.

Currently, I am the President of the consulting firm, Brockovich Research & Consulting, where I am involved in numerous major environmental cases.

I have come a long way from file clerk to inspired environmental activist to motivational speaker to television host and producer.

I was remarried in 1999 to Eric Ellis, and live with my husband and children in Southern California.



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Erin Brockovich-Ellis

The youngest child of Frank and Betty Jo Pattee (he was an industrial engineer, she was a journalist), Erin Brockovich grew up in Lawrence, Kansas. After graduating from Lawrence High School in 1978, Erin spent one year at Kansas State University, then transferred to a business college in Dallas, Texas, where she earned her Associate in Applied Arts degree. She recently received an honorary degree of Master of Arts, Business Communication from Jones International University.



In 1981, Erin took a job as a management trainee for K-Mart in Orange, California. She left after a few months to take a job at Fluor Engineers and Constructors to work and study to become an electrical design engineer. While working at this job, she tried her luck in the beauty pageant world. Although she met with almost immediate success, winning the title of Miss Pacific Coast, she dropped off the circuit the following year and married restaurant manager Shawn Brown.

Shawn and Erin moved back to Kansas where over the course of four years Erin gave birth to her two older children, Matthew and Katie Brown. Eventually the family settled in Reno, Nevada. In 1987, she and Shawn divorced. Now a single mom with two children to support, Erin became a secretary at E.F. Hutton, a Reno brokerage. There she met stockbroker Steven Brockovich whom she married in 1989.

Though it produced her youngest child, daughter Elizabeth, Erin's marriage to Steven Brockovich ended. They were divorced in 1990, and again Erin was forced to fend for herself, this time with three children to feed and clothe.

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Erin Brockovich
About Our Firm

After being seriously injured in a traffic accident in Reno, Erin Brockovich moved back to Southern California with her children. In 1991, she hired Jim Vititoe of Masry & Vititoe to handle her car accident case. It was not long after her case was resolved that she was hired to work at the law firm as a file clerk. While organizing papers in a pro bono real estate case, she found medical records in the file that piqued her curiosity. After getting permission from one of the firm's principals, Ed Masry, she began to research the matter.

Erin's solo investigation eventually established that the health of countless people who lived in and around Hinkley, California in the 1960's, 70's and 80's had been devastated by exposure to toxic Chromium 6. The Chromium 6 had leaked into the groundwater from the nearby Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Compressor Station. In 1996, as a result of the largest direct action lawsuit of its kind, spearheaded by Erin Brockovich and Ed Masry, the giant utility paid the largest toxic tort injury settlement in U.S. history: \$333 million in damages to more than 600 Hinkley residents.

The story of Erin's investigation, legal triumph and personal challenges were dramatized in the hit movie "Erin Brockovich". Released in March 2000 by Universal Studios, it starred JULIA ROBERTS as Erin and ALBERT FINNEY as Edward Masry. The movie received 5 academy award nominations. Julia received a Best Actress Award for her portrayal of Erin Brockovich.

No longer a file clerk, Erin Brockovich now serves as Director of Research at Masry and Vititoe, where she is currently involved in other major environmental lawsuits. Remarried in 1999 to actor Eric Ellis, she lives with her husband and children in Agoura Hills, California.

Erin has been with Masry & Vititoe for ten years and has spearheaded other cases:

1. Another Chromium 6 case against PG&E for groundwater contamination in Kettleman, California;
2. A TCE groundwater contamination against Lockheed Martin in Redlands, California;
3. A DBCP and EDB groundwater contamination against Dole and Delmonte Foods in Oahu, Hawaii;
4. Groundwater contamination against Aerojet in Sacramento, California;
5. Chromium 6 case against Betz/Dearborn (settled) and numerous other cases in California, New Hampshire, New York, West Virginia, and other states. Masry & Vititoe is also pursuing multiple MTBE litigations against oil companies.

Erin Brockovich has received a number of awards and

honors for her work with the environment:

- Subject of the hit movie "Erin Brockovich" starring Julia Roberts
- Consumer Advocate of the Year" - Consumer Attorneys of California
- County of Los Angeles - Courageous and Unflagging efforts for work in Hinkley
- "Profile in Courage" Award from Santa Clara County Trial Lawyers Association
- "Scales of Justice" Award from Court TV
- Justice Armand Arabian Law and Media Award - San Fernando Valley Bar
- "Presidential Award of Merit" Consumer Attorneys of California
- California Legislature - Assembly Resolution No. 1621 for her personal commitment to insuring the environment is free of toxic pollution
- "Special Citizen Award" for noble efforts in protecting children. The Children's Health Environmental Coalition
- "Walk the Talk" Award from Heal the Bay
- "Champion of Justice" Award from the Civil Justice Foundation of ATLA
- City of Barstow - Proclamation of "Erin Brockovich Day"
- President's Award - Oregon Trial Lawyers Association
- Mothers & Shakers Award - Redbook Magazine
- "Consumer Advocate of the Year" - Themis Capital Corporation
- Glendale Kiwanis Club - Dedication To Helping Others Fight Injustice
- "Best Use of Public Records" - First Amendment Beacon
- The Debbie Cole Award - Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition
- "Lifesaver Award" - Lymphoma Research Foundation of America
- The Rochelle Hoffman Woman of Significance Award - Temple Adat Ari El
- "Champions of Children" Award - Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
- "Women of Action Award - Woman of the Year" - Israel Cancer Research Fund
- National Jewish Fund - Environmental Excellence

Ms. Brockovich hosted the ABC special "Challenge America" in December 2001 and also hosted her own Lifetime television show "Final Justice", on the Lifetime Television Network. The show dealt with women who have taken life experiences, challenged the legal system and made it better for those that follow.

Visit the Official Erin Brockovich Site: www.brockovich.com

Contact Us

1-800-561-5500

**5707 Corsa Ave., Second Floor
Westlake Village, CA 91362
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Biography of Erin Brockovich-Ellis Disclaimer: The West Coast, California personal injury, pharmaceutical litigation, environmental litigation, aviation disasters, wrongful death, brain injury and/or other legal information offered herein by Personal Injury Attorneys Masry & Vitoe is not formal legal advice, nor the formation of an attorney client relationship. The information on Erin Brockovich in this legal web site is general in nature and should not be used as legal advice from Brockovich. If you feel you have a legal case for damages, you should contact a lawyer or attorney for a consultation.

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Dragon, Karen E. (CDC/NIOSH/EID)**From:****Sent:** Wednesday, May 23, 2007 1:00 PM**To:** erin@brockovich.com**Subject:** Inquiry from Brockovich.com (Possible speaking engagement for Erin)

Is there anyway that Erin Brockovich would be able to attend this event June 26th with Dr. Clapp or travel to the New York area to give a speech at a future date. James Little Endicott NY 607-725-3846

IBM WORKERS AWAIT DECISION ON NIOSH CANCER STUDY:

A Boston University School of Public Health Professor Dr. Richard Clapp of Environmental Health, will present results of his study showing higher mortality rates among IBM factory workers than the general population June 26 at the First United Methodist Church, 53 McKinley Avenue in Endicott at 6:30 PM.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health www.cdc.gov/niosh/ recently completed a feasibility investigation recommending a health study be conducted on 29,000 former workers at the Endicott facility to see if higher rates of cancer exist in the workers. Former and current IBM workers are concerned about effects of exposure to chemicals in the work place in regard to cancer, related health problems, as well as birth defects and learning disabilities in children of workers. Sub contractors who worked in the facility have also expressed interest in being included in the study. The anticipated result of the study is to place pressure on the Occupational Safety and Health Administration <http://www.osha.gov/> in order to update outdated chemical exposure guidelines. A safer workplace translates into lower health care costs and reductions in workman's compensation rates: A win win for business and employees. More stringent standards could drive innovation solutions that result in safer manufacturing procedures and creative alternative new technology. Improvements are needed to ventilation and preventative maintenance in current processes and machinery in various factories that use chemicals all over the country. Improvements to waste management and recycling keep companies competitive and help the environment. Activists, working mostly on a grassroots basis with no funding, are concerned about public safety, corporate responsibility, and government accountability. The Union Alliance@IBM, headed by Lee Conrad and Rick White <http://www.allianceibm.org/>, and the Sierra Club, <http://newyork.sierraclub.org/susquehanna/sierragr.html> represented by Scott Lauffer, are groups locally engaged with these issues. Alan Turnbull, a retired corporate executive and founder of Reaction Against Group of Endicott or "RAGE", has organized a coalition of residents consisting of over 600 residents and constructed a website <http://www.rage-ny.org/> to communicate progress: Alan recently won an award from the Environmental Protection Agency for his involvement. Another prominent activist, Bernadette Patrick whos daughter suffered from cancer, organized Endicott residents into a separate effort called Citizens Acting to Restore Endicott's Environment or CARE. Patrick has contacted Erin Brockavich, <http://www.brockovich.com/> who has expressed interest in coming to Endicott. Members of the Western Broome Environmental Coalition Stakeholders "WBECS" (Spokesperson Wanda Hudak) were assembled by the Department of Health www.health.state.ny.us/ to meet with health and government officials to help steer the committee, make recommendations, review health studies, and to act as a liaison with the community. "WBECS" was a coalition that combined representatives from other citizen groups together as well. We all helped organize the Environmental Justice tour <http://ej4all.org/organizations.php?area=Northeast&id=12> and became a part of a national awareness to highlight communities affected by pollution that discriminated against minorities.

Congressman Maurice Hinchey and Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo have pushed for increased government and corporate accountability. Hinchey has consistently met with local activists, health officials and government agencies. Lupardo and Senator Tom Libous introduced a bill to mandate future chemical spill be reported by businesses to the public within 48 hours and it was passed.

A tenant notification bill is currently being worked on to require landlords to warn prospective renters that a toxic contamination exists under the contaminated property. Their bipartisan bill was vetoed by former Gov. George Pataki, but may pass on the next attempt with current Gov. Eliot Spitzer.

Political pressure from activists, along with the work of state and local politicians, has helped to expedite cleanup efforts. Endicott Mayor Joan Hickey Pulse asked IBM to donate a new village water filtration unit to prevent chemicals that contaminate the aquifer from entering the drinking water and they complied. Residents of Endicott have complained that the contamination from the IBM site has been a health and safety issue since 1979. The chemicals spread underground from the IBM buildings to the Susquehanna River http://riverkeeper.org/our_bio_rkennedy.php. The chemical fumes entered basements of homes through vapor

intrusion. Sometimes the chemicals followed underground pipes and other buried structures such as sewer drains.

The Press & Sun Bulletin www.pressconnects.com initially broke the story and reported that detection levels were above New York State acceptable standards. The Department of Health and Department of Environmental Conservation became involved. Citizens wrote letters to the editor demanding that IBM expedite the cleanup, complaining that the problem has existed for decades.

Local activists created a distribution email list to communicate with government officials, residents, activists, and media all across the country. The issue was covered and published in several newspapers and media networks including the New York Times, USA Today and CNN.

The DEC classification of the spill was elevated to make the cleanup more of a priority. Cancer studies were conducted in the contaminated plume area which showed elevated cancer rates. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

www.atsdr.cdc.gov/ conducted a computer modeling study that projected elevated cancer rates to residents due to past emissions of chemicals coming from the smokestacks of the facility. The Department of health is currently conducting a public comment period to ask residents if they want a health study for residents downwind of the plant. Email niocindocket@cdc.gov and ask that IBM worker cancer study be conducted.

An ongoing class action lawsuit is pending representing residents affected in the contaminated area. IBM made an offer of \$10,000 per homeowner to compensate for depreciated real-estate values and approximately 250 residents accepted the buyout although the right to sue for possible future health problems was preserved. The DEC is testing to the West of Endicott to see if any contamination problems exist there. Old time Endicott village dump employees residents allege that chemical dumping from Industry occurred near the banks of the Nanticoke creek near the Enjoy Golf course.

Public awareness has created political pressure to strengthen and enforce EPA, DOH, and DEC regulations in order to prevent future problems before they occur. Activists want OSHA to update outdated chemical exposure guidelines for workers.

Safer federal guidelines are being advocated to make thousands of factories around the country safer. Improvements to ventilation, preventative maintenance, and updates to machinery are much needed. This is a much bigger problem than IBM Endicott.

You can help by contacting NIOSH to ask that the health study be conducted. Support an IBM worker health study by emailing Dr. Lynne Pinkerton of NIOSH at niocindocket@cdc.gov or access <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/review/public/103/>. Or mail NIOSH Docket Office, 4676 Columbia Parkway, MS, C-34, Cincinnati, OHIO 45226.

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