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EPA proposes Highway 100 and County Road 3 Groundwater Plume Site to National Priorities List

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced the proposal of the Highway 100 and County Road 3 Groundwater Plume Site to the National Priorities List (NPL), which would make the site eligible for investigation and cleanup under the Superfund program. The City of St. Louis Park is pleased that this process, which was announced to residents in early September, is proceeding. The city is in full support of this action to ensure the ongoing health and safety of residents and that those who caused the contamination are held responsible.

Health concerns already addressed

Any health concerns related to this site have already been addressed by the MPCA, Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), EPA and the City of St. Louis Park.

- In 2008, at no charge to the homeowner, 41 homes were fitted with vapor extraction systems to treat elevated levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in indoor air or in the soil beneath the homes.
- The city has been working successfully with the MPCA, MDH and the EPA to ensure the safety of its drinking water in relation to this site and to protect residents from any adverse effects of this contamination. Water Treatment Plant #4 was taken out of service in 2016 when contaminants, believed to result from the Highway 100 and County Road 3 Groundwater Plume Site, were detected. Upgrades that have since been installed at the plant treat all identified contaminants, regardless of their source, down to published advisory levels for drinking water. The plant was returned to service in early 2019.

Site history

In April 2004, the MPCA began searching for the source of vinyl chloride contamination that had been detected in several City of Edina wells that drew water from the Prairie du Chien-Jordan Aquifer. Between 2006 and 2017, the source was traced back to an area near Walker and Lake streets in St. Louis Park. While an exact source hasn't been identified, it's important to note that the businesses associated with the chemical release no longer operate in these areas. Contamination in the groundwater is from previous uses.

Next steps

Before being added to the NPL, a site must meet the listing requirements and be proposed for addition to the list in the Federal Register, subject to a 60-day public comment period. The site will be added to the NPL if it continues to meet the listing requirements after the public comment period closes and the agency has responded to any comments.

Visit www.epa.gov/superfund for information about Superfund and the NPL. Visit www.epa.gov/superfund/current-npl-updates-new-proposed-npl-sites-and-new-npl-sites for Federal Register notices and supporting documents for NPL and proposed sites. Visit the city's website at www.stlouispark.org/groundwater-plume to learn more.