

Talking Points – Oakdale Wells

January 2005

1. - Two perfluorochemicals, PFOS and PFOA, have been detected in several wells from the Oakdale municipal water system.
2. - The concentrations of these chemicals are below MDH Health Based Value levels and are considered to be safe to drink over a lifetime.
3. - The situation will continue to be closely monitored by the City of Oakdale and the MDH.

SUBPOINTS

Oakdale Water

- MPCA and MDH recommended sampling of the Oakdale wells due to proximity to two landfills where PFC wastes were known to be disposed.
- The Oakdale Municipal Water Supply has 7 active wells, none of which have ever tested positive for chemical contaminants in the past.
- Oakdale results shows 5 of 6 wells have low levels (less than 1 ppb) of PFOS and PFOA; one well was not sampled due to a mechanical problem.
- Based on the concentrations found, no change in water use is recommended at this time by MDH. Concentrations of both compounds are below MDH Health Based Values (HBVs). HBVs are concentrations of contaminants that are considered safe to drink over a lifetime, even for vulnerable populations.
- The MDH Health-Based Value for PFOS is 1 ppb and for PFOA is 7ppb. (ppb = parts per billion)
- The wells will be re-sampled on a frequent basis, with samples being analyzed by Exygen in State College, PA, and the MDH Public Health Lab.
- Information is being provided to all users of the Oakdale system, which includes the City of Landfall, and parts of Lake Elmo and North St. Paul. Updates will be provided on a regular basis, and information will be posted on the city, county, and MDH web sites.
- The samples were collected by a 3M contractor (Pace) and analyzed by Exygen Research in State College, PA – one of the few labs in the US capable of doing low-level analysis for PFOS and PFOA. The analysis is difficult and expensive.
- The MDH lab developed the capability to do the analysis in late 2003.

**Exhibit
1988**

State of Minnesota v. 3M Co.,
Court File No. 27-CV-10-28862

STATE_02496227

Site Investigations

- Recently, PFOS and PFOA were detected in groundwater at two nearby 3M disposal sites, the former Washington County Landfill (max. of 1 ppb PFOS and 70 ppb PFOA) and the Abresch dump, a Superfund site at Hwy 5 and Granada Avenue (max of 30 ppb PFOS and 60 ppb PFOA).
- MDH collected samples last summer from 32 private wells near the former Washington County Landfill. Seven private wells south of the landfill showed very low (less than 1 ppb) levels of PFOA.
- MPCA and MDH recommended sampling of the Oakdale wells (due to proximity to two landfills where PFC wastes were known to be disposed), plus public wells in Cottage Grove and Hastings (due to their proximity to 3M's Cottage Grove plant where PFOA was manufactured and PFOS was used).
- There were no detections in Cottage Grove wells; there was one very low detection in one Hastings well.

Perfluorochemicals and Health

- 3M manufactured and used a unique class of chemicals, known as perfluorochemicals, for decades at their Cottage Grove chemical plant and other plants. These chemicals include perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA). These chemicals are very stable, and do not break down in the environment.
- Studies of blood donors have shown that virtually the entire US population has very low, but detectable levels of PFOS and PFOA in their blood, indicating that exposure to these chemicals is widespread. The exact routes are unknown at this time, but likely include food, commercial products, etc. They stay in the body for years.
- Studies of 3M workers, who have thousands of times higher amounts of PFCs in blood than the average population, have shown no indications of health problems. Animal tests have shown that exposure to very high levels of PFOS and PFOA (with concentrations many, many times higher than found in the city wells) can be toxic to the liver and other organs, and may cause developmental effects.
- The EPA is working with 3M and others to try to understand the sources of perfluorochemicals in the environment, and how people are exposed. EPA recently issued a new draft health risk assessment for PFOA which states that it should not represent a big threat to the general population, but also recognizes there are many uncertainties.
- 3M has been very cooperative with EPA, MPCA, MDH, and the local communities investigating and dealing with this issue, and sharing what they know about these chemicals.