



August 17, 2005

Frederick K. Campbell  
Superfund and Emergency Response Section  
Remediation Division  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
520 Lafayette Rd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Highway 96 Superfund Dump

Dear Fred:

The City Council of the City of North Oaks (City Council) has been actively involved in the events and activities related to the recent finding of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), particularly vinyl chloride, in residential drinking water wells in the city of North Oaks. The City Council is taking this opportunity to submit our requests, suggestions, and recommendations related to decisions that we understand are about to be made by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for future actions about this Superfund Dump situation.

Further, we understand that the MPCA's review and address of the July 2005 report from Conestoga-Rovers & Associates, Inc. (CRA) on this matter could result in certain decisions by the MPCA about future actions the responsible parties will need to complete. We have received a copy and had a presentation of CRA's report. We have thoughtfully considered its contents. Our address of any aspect of history or findings is limited to its relevance to the requests, suggestions, and recommendations we present in this letter. We know the MPCA and you know the details and specifics of this matter.

## **OUR GOAL**

The City Council of the City of North Oaks requests that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency follow the Minnesota Decision Document (MDD) and the four (4) response action objectives in the MDD, including providing "safe drinking water for the residents of North Oaks". The Minnesota Decision Document (MDD) and the four (4) response action objectives are:

1. "To provide source control by reducing the area, volume and toxicity of the source;
2. To eliminate the contamination of the North Pond, and establish a new wetland;
3. To prevent the migration of contaminated ground water from the Site;
4. To provide safe drinking water for the residents of North Oaks who have received drinking water advisories." *[Minnesota Decision Document dated October 7, 1993]*

As a result of the recent findings of contaminants in certain drinking water wells, the City Council requests the MPCA take all reasonable actions to address these four objectives. Further we request that the MPCA consider our requests, suggestions, and recommendations we feel are integral to addressing these four (4) objectives at this time and for the foreseeable future.

## **CITY OF NORTH OAKS REQUESTS RELATIVE TO THE GOAL**

This letter provides, in our opinion, requests, suggestions and recommendations for strategies and actions that should address the "community situation" we are encountering at this time. Our recommended strategies and actions fall into four subject areas –

1. **Future groundwater quality**, including additional monitoring and testing using both residential and monitoring wells, together with appropriate analyses, to enable a better anticipation and prediction of the future of this drinking water quality situation;
2. **Public education and information**, as a commitment to assist our residents to understand the situation, the remediation actions, relevant State laws and regulations, and homeowner responsibilities;
3. **Permanent drinking water solutions** for the residents of North Oaks; and
4. **Responsibility and authority** of the various State and federal government agencies, private parties and the City of North Oaks relative to this particular matter and plans.

## THE CURRENT SITUATION

The recent findings of VOCs in certain residential drinking water wells were very disturbing. We understand that the findings are consistent with the groundwater and residential drinking water well monitoring remedial action plan approved by the MPCA and implemented to determine the presence of contaminants in any residential drinking water wells.

We offer the following points as our assessment of the current situation:

1. the MPCA required that CRA monitor and test thirty-five (35) private residential drinking water wells during the period from 1994 through October 2004;
2. the recent findings follow the period of nearly ten (10) years from 1994 through first part of 2004, during which CRA and MPCA reported that the monitoring and testing of residential drinking water wells produced “non detect (ND)” amounts of VOCs;
3. the required residential drinking water well monitoring and testing in October 2004 found vinyl chloride at 12 and 13 West Shore Road at 0.12 µg/L (or 0.12 micrograms per liter);
4. the MPCA requested that CRA complete a six-month study of private residential drinking water wells “. . . to investigate the nature and extent of any vinyl chloride contamination in wells on the west shore” of Lake Gilfillan;
5. the recent findings of six (6) different VOCs were found in seven (7) residential drinking water wells at low level amounts, relative to the health risk standards adopted by the Minnesota Department of Health;
6. the recent findings of vinyl chloride in drinking water wells at three (3) private residences in the area west of Lake Gilfillan were found in amounts that have not exceeded the Health Risk Limit (HRL) of 0.2 µg/L (or 0.2 micrograms per liter), but that vinyl chlorides were found in the residential drinking water wells at 13 West Shore Road and 2 Hummingbird Hill were at 0.2 µg/L;
7. during the recent six month study period, the MPCA and CRA monitored and tested forty-five (45) residential drinking water wells in an area west and southwest of Lake Gilfillan;
8. the private home owner at 13 West Shore Road was issued a drinking water well advisory by the Minnesota Department of Health, even though the quantity of vinyl chloride found in March 2005 did not exceed the MDH HRL limit;
9. the three (3) private residences found with vinyl chloride have voluntarily been supplied with bottled drinking water by the responsible parties in this matter; and

10. the recent findings of VOCs have been at concentration levels that are below the amounts found in the early 1990s in the residential drinking water wells on the east side of Lake Gilfillan.

As a result, the City Council of the City of North Oaks and a number of residents of North Oaks remain concerned about the impact of this recent finding of VOCs on (a) the drinking water at residential homes, clearly more extensively in the residential areas in the eastern part of the city, (b) the negative image of the community presented in recent media accounts of this matter, (c) the negative impact on property values, and (d) the affects on the general well-being of the residents of the community. These concerns describe the “problem”, as we see it at this time.

The City Council is confident that the MPCA and the responsible parties (Reynolds Metals Company and Whirlpool Corporation) will take the necessary actions to address the overall situation with the Superfund site, particularly as it impacts and affects the North Oaks community, and the current situation directly affecting identifiable neighborhoods, private residences, and our residents.

## **OUR REQUESTS ABOUT STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS RELATIVE TO THE MDD OBJECTIVES AND THE CURRENT SITUATION**

As you know, the City Council of the City of North Oaks has completed a number of meetings, received as much information about the situation as we were able to obtain, and agreed that we would address the MPCA during its reviews CRA’s report of the situation and deliberates about continued and more extensive actions that might be necessary at this time.

The City Council has focused our energies on strategies and actions we firmly believe will enable this community to return to a “quality of life” that is founded on fundamental elements of life, health and safety. We understand how the detections of VOCs, particularly vinyl chloride, in private residential drinking water wells at this time in new locations, together with the VOCs found in the past years, cause public uncertainty and create challenges to public confidence. The questions about the adequacy of the monitoring, testing and analyses, we believe, are very understandable under these circumstances.

We know the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has extensive authority in these contamination situations, which is important to us. The Minnesota Department of Health is the other member of the state agency “team”, and has established a national reputation for adopting and enforcing health standards. We will be very pleased both agencies can effectively assist our community in these matters at this time.

We address the solutions for this matter relative to two dimensions of time – (1) current plan and (2) long-term plan.

- **Current Plan**

The following items are features of the current plan approved by the MPCA:

1. Follow the existing MPCA approved plan, including residential drinking water well monitoring and testing;
2. Encourage the bottled water “solution” in those situations where vinyl chloride is detected; and
3. Continue to communicate with residents and Council directly, along with using the City website

We are appreciative of these aspects of the current plan, which have enabled us to understand the current situation and request the additional “work” we address.

- **Improved Long – Term Plan**

The “problem” and the solutions to address this problem continue to be a challenge to all the parties involved in this matter. The City of North Oaks insists that the MPCA and the responsible parties be prepared to answer two fundamental questions and agree to provide us with solutions through (1) an effective monitoring and testing program, (2) a timely, effective community education and information strategy, and (3) planning for permanent drinking water solutions that address and provide answers to these two questions:

- 1) **What is the quality of the water in the aquifers used now or might be used in the future for residential drinking water in North Oaks, including the Prairie du Chien aquifer?**
- 2) **What is the future movement of and chemical composition of the contamination plume(s) emanating from the Superfund Dump site, which based on the 1993-94 findings, entered the residential drinking water wells of the North Oaks community?**

We believe that this “problem” and the actions that must be undertaken must be subdivided into at least five (5) geographic areas of and about the City of North Oaks to most effectively solve the “problem”. Those five (5) areas are used throughout this letter and are the following:

- 1) The Superfund Dump Site area, located in White Bear Township;
- 2) The area west and north of the Lake Gilfillan and Dump Site areas that is represented to be free today of any contaminants related to the Superfund Dump Site;
- 3) The area immediately east and west of Lake Gilfillan where contamination detections were found in 1993/94 and again in 2004-/05;
- 4) The area immediately north and northwest of the Lake Gilfillan and the Dump Site where contamination detections were found in 1993/94; and
- 5) The area immediately south and southwest of the Lake Gilfillan and the Dump Site where contamination detections were found in 1993/94.

We have learned that the “problem” situation in each of these five areas is different in (a) the quantity of the detections, (b) the detections over time, (c) the presence of detections, (d) the present situation relative to recent detections and drinking water solutions, and (e) the known health risks associated with residential drinking water at this time. We believe that this “problem” is complex and might be better addressed by breaking down the “problem” into workable components and address the specific situations in each of the areas.

We address our strategies and the four subject areas, as we described above in the “City of North Oaks Requests” section of this letter, in the remaining sections.

1. **Future Groundwater Quality**

- a. **Monitoring and testing**

- i. **Monitoring and testing – private residential drinking water wells**

We believe that the responsible parties should be committed to providing, at this time and in the future, those monitoring resources that are reasonably required from time to time based on the findings obtained in a consistent monitoring and testing program. The monitoring and testing program of private residential drinking water wells should continue, even if the

detections quantities are few and detection levels remain at levels that do not exceed the MDH health risk standards. This is a sampling and testing solution directly examines the quality of the drinking water that a private family might be using for their personal uses for their residential drinking water well.

*City of North Oaks Comments:*

*In contrast to CRA report Section 5.3, we recommend that the residential monitoring and testing program in the area west of Lake Gilfillan be continued at given residential well locations at least quarterly for a period to be determined on a situation-by-situation basis after a VOC detection and agreed on by all parties before any reduction in the frequency of monitoring and testing.*

**ii. Monitoring and testing – separate monitoring wells**

It is clear from the “expert” testimony we received that wells should be drilled at specified locations to provide a resource for more extensive monitoring and testing separate from and in addition to the private residential wells. We heard that the MDH records on the characteristics, such as well depth, are not always available which raises questions about the exact groundwater being monitored and tested. We also heard some difference of professional opinion about the design and schedule for this monitoring and testing.

- a) CRA – proposed two well nests of two wells initially be installed with one each in the areas east and west of Lake Gilfillan corresponding to areas of highest concentrations of VOCs in the early 1990s and 2005, respectively.
  - i) 15/17/22 Gilfillan Rd – agree
  - ii) 12/13 West Shore & 2 Hummingbird – agree

We have been advised by Fletcher Driscoll, an experienced professional in these matters, that there is a need to provide a more comprehensive monitoring system, initially composed of five (5) monitoring sites with multiple depth well nests. His recommendation is that two monitoring wells be located on the east side of Lake Gilfillan, two well nests on the west side, and an additional well nest down gradient (presumably in the area of the North Oaks Golf Club course) to measure the extent of the westward and northwest movement of the contamination plume(s) from the Dump site.

*City of North Oaks Comments:*

*We request that separate monitoring wells be constructed, following the Driscoll recommendation, to provide an independent monitoring resource for the select areas of the city that have had private residential drinking water wells found with VOCs and certain other areas needing such monitoring and testing in the future to address our two fundamental questions. These wells placed in clusters will enable the parties to better understand water quality characteristics related to health risks and health standards, together with the individual residential drinking water wells,*

*being used to monitor and test the water quality in the different aquifers in the areas of the community.*

*Second, we offer the following requests and suggestions for the current monitoring and testing proposal:*

- 1) The installation of the monitoring wells needs to get started as soon as possible, following needed approvals, and we agree with the first two sites identified, as the highest priority area for more monitoring and testing is on an east-west "plan" extending from the Dump Site through 17/19 East Gilfillan Road, 12/13 West Shore Road and 2 Hummingbird Hill;*
- 2) The installation of the monitoring wells, knowing that a third well nest is being installed at the Robb Farm Road site, to address the area north and northwest of the Dump Site, including Lily Pond, Blue Goose, Duck Pass and north end of East Gilfillan Road;*
- 3) We need to obtain some resolution on the contaminants found near the south end of Lake Gilfillan in 1993-94 at 17 & 19 Dove Lane, which has been characterized as different from well findings and characteristics in other areas; and*
- 4) We need to have a definitive report on the groundwater quality and movement in each of the four areas within North Oaks, as identified on page 4, as soon as possible, with a reasonable schedule to do so being established as a part of the MPCA's direction at this time.*

*We request that the responsible parties be required to prepare and circulate a "decision tree" that outlines the continued monitoring and testing and shows the next implementable actions resulting from either positive or negative detections over the agreed timeline for continued monitoring and testing at each site. We would like to see that information and have an opportunity to comment on it as an element of the CRA plan being approved by the MPCA. We think this will assist the community to understand the future plans and have a "template" we can rely on as predictive of the future course of action depending on preceding findings.*

*Last, the City of North Oaks is working with the North Oaks Home Owners' Association, an entity that both owns land and has easement rights about our roadways, to determine the possibilities for locating monitoring wells on their lands and obtain the required access agreement(s) to enable this part of the monitoring and testing program to proceed.*

### **iii. Monitoring and testing design and schedule**

We have heard the need to implement the more extensive monitoring and testing program immediately ranging from 2 two-well nests (4 wells) to 7 three-well nests (21 wells). The variables are a function of two items – (1) well nest design of 2 or 3 wells each and (2) the specific plan for those areas about Lake Gilfillan needed to determine the profile of the groundwater in each aquifer and the movement of the contaminated plume in any aquifer. Each of the areas about Lake Gilfillan had different specific findings in

1993-94 and again in 2004-05, and would seem to require specific programs to address the specific findings in each area.

We address one aspect of this topic in item 1.a. above relative to the continued monitoring and testing of private residential drinking water wells.

*City of North Oaks Comments:*

*We understand the need to determine the exact quantity of monitoring wells or the amount of monitoring and testing required as this matter continues into the future. We do agree that the parties need to get started and the initial proposal from CRA is a good starting point for our highest priority area. We need to rely on the expertise of the hydrogeology professionals to determine the exact details of the monitoring well design, e.g. 2 or 3 well nests, the precise location of the well nests, depths of the wells, and the like. We have heard that the proper hydrogeologic engineering will require three points of water monitoring to make the necessary determinations.*

*We will insist that the MPCA and the responsible parties be prepared to answer the two fundamental questions we raise and agree to provide us with a monitoring and testing program that effectively and timely provides the answers to these two questions:*

- 1) What is the quality of groundwater in all aquifers, including the Prairie du Chien aquifer that we have been told might be a source of residential drinking water for deeper residential drinking water wells or a municipal system, along with answers to the other questions we identify in the next section – Analysis and Modeling?*
- 2) What is the present and future movement of and chemical composition of the contamination plume(s) emanating from the Superfund Dump site, generally in three directions based on the 1993-94 findings – (1) east-west from the Dump site through 17/19 East Gilfillan, (2) north and northwest through Duck Pass, Blue Goose and Lily Pond areas, and (3) south and southwest through Dove Lane, Robb Farm Road west of East Gilfillan Road?*

*In answering these two fundamental questions, it seems very clear that the remedial plan will require a certain quantity of monitoring and testing, increased in contrast to past practices, following a reasonably acceptable protocol in the industry. We do not want to see a limit to the monitoring and testing, except that which can be directly linked to specific outcomes as agreed to be all parties – responsible parties, MPCA, MDH and the City.*

*We have seen a letter from the MPCA, dated August 5, 2005, approving the installation of the two (2) well nests at 15/17 East Gilfillan Road and 12/13 West Shore Road. We are interested in MPCA's response to the monitoring well recommendation to the north and northwest area too. We have urged that these wells be located on "community" property rather than on individual resident property.*

**b. Analysis and Modeling**

We learned that we might have a situation within North Oaks where the movement of a plume(s) emanating from the Superfund Dump site that (a) could be better detected and understood and (b) might enable more definitive remediation and solution(s). The testimony focused on four key items:

- i. What and where is the movement of the plume and any contaminated aquifer?**
- ii. What is the breadth and depth of the contaminated plume(s) at every location?**
- iii. What is the dispersion of the plume(s) over time?**
- iv. What is the quality of the water in the aquifers used now or might be used in the future for residential drinking water in North Oaks?**

The City Council would like to see more attention to study and analyses that assists everyone in better predicting the future of this situation in the community. As a result, we would like to be in a position to plan possible course(s) of actions to address the community needs and the MDD objectives, primarily with regard to providing “safe drinking water for the residents of North Oaks”. While the monitoring and testing program implemented since 1994 has provided data about the presence or non-presence of VOCs in the drinking water, we believe that, although the present levels of VOCs are very low, the MPCA could assist in providing a more prospective focus on the situation, solutions and courses of action than addressing the situation after the monitoring and testing “finds” the presence of VOCs. We understand there are analyses and modeling tools that can effectively aid in accomplishing this prospective, predictive objective.

*City of North Oaks Comments:*

*We request that additional analyses be completed to address the three questions outlined above. As we understand, the following two techniques could aid in better predicting the future of this situation relative to movement of the groundwater containing VOCs and the quality of the water in lower aquifers within our community.*

- 1) Vertical aquifer profiling of groundwater – this analysis will determine the water qualities and contaminant details of the groundwater found in the aquifers below North Oaks*
- 2) Fate and transport analysis –this analysis will enable a better understanding of the movement of the groundwater and the contaminant plume(s), as suggested at one of our public meetings by Fletcher Driscoll, an experienced professional in these matters.*

**c. Extraction Well at the Dump Site**

We have been told that the extraction well installed in 1989 remains effective, as the MPCA and CRA have publicly stated it is. Since the effectiveness of this extraction program is a key feature for addressing the following two objectives in the MDD:

2. “To provide source control by reducing the area, volume and toxicity of the source;



4. To prevent the migration of contaminated ground water from the Site;” [Minnesota Decision Document dated October 7, 1993]

While the recent detections of VOCs in residential drinking water wells were not unexpected, we believe that all parties need to be absolutely certain that the source of the contamination is being contained and that no additional contamination is emanating from the Dump site area.

*City of North Oaks Comments:*

*We request that an evaluation of the extraction well be completed to positively verify at this time the effectiveness of the extraction system at the Dump site. We view this as an opportunity to affirm public confidence in the MPCA approved program at the source after ten years since the monitoring wells were installed at the Dump site. As the documented major source of the VOCs, it seems to us that it is important to take preventive steps to ensure that the source controls are working and that new, additional contaminants are not emanating from the site.*

*While we are not experts at the engineering required, it seems reasonable to suggest that it might be appropriate to get a second party opinion about the effectiveness of the solution(s) in place at the Dump site, along with a public disclosure of their report and findings.*

## **2. Public education and information**

A second major component of our suggestions and recommendations for strategies and actions that should address the “community situation” we are encountering at this time is a commitment to effective, timely public education and information. It is becoming clearer that we need to assist our residents to better understand the situation, the remediation actions, relevant State laws and regulations particularly related to safe residential drinking water, and homeowner responsibilities. The City of North Oaks has about 1,600 households today. Of these households, the Superfund Dump Site matter has directly impacted about 100 households through well monitoring and testing, including three (3) households with VOCs including vinyl chloride detections and four (4) additional households with VOCs other than vinyl chloride at this 2004-2005 period. Additionally, MDH issued drinking water well advisories to another twelve (12) households during 1993. In other words, the City of North Oaks has about 1,500 households that have experienced indirectly the affects of this matter by reason of friendships, home ownership in the affected city, media reports, and other direct and indirect communications.

We think that it is important to address the needs of the two groups of households in this community – (1) those estimated 100 households directly affected and (2) the estimated 1,500 households not directly affected, and we believe strongly that a significant commitment to an effective public education and information program is critical. This program should assist all parties in a prospective manner to (a) provide an intelligent community with unbiased materials from reliable sources, using the advice and counsel of the Minnesota Department of Health, who are the public health experts in these matters, and (b) prevent the spread of “incorrect” and biased information on this very sensitive subject.

*City of North Oaks Comments:*

*We request that the MPCA require the immediate design and implementation of an effective public education and information program financed by the responsible parties. We recommend*

*that we seek the counsel of the MDH about the features and content of this program, while relying on their experiences with residential and municipal water systems problems elsewhere. Further, we anticipate that this program might require the services of professionals in the design and implementation. The City of North Oaks will be an active participant in this program design and implementation on behalf of our residents, even to the extent that the City will accept responsibility for program administration.*

*Additionally we provide you with these points as we further contemplate the specifics of this public education and information initiative:*

- 1) Public information*
  - a) Disclosure of the residential drinking water well tests to the community, in addition to the homeowner*
  - b) Annual, quarterly or other frequency reports to the City; at a public meeting*
  - c) Posting relevant information on the City website*
- 2) Public education*
  - a) Health risks with drinking water sources*
  - b) Interpretation of MN Department of Health health risk standards for residential drinking water wells*
  - c) Homeowner responsibilities relative to safe drinking water*
- 3) Address the fears and concerns of all residents in the City*
- 4) Provide communications from a unbiased, responsible source*

### **3. Permanent solutions for safe drinking water to the residents of North Oaks**

We know there are a finite number of permanent residential drinking water solutions available to our community or any community or household, including:

- a. Home treatment system
- b. Deeper well
- c. Municipal water supply

We also know that the MPCA is reviewing the MDD relative to representations in the MDD about permanent solutions for safe drinking water.

*City of North Oaks Comments:*

*We would appreciate being advised about the legal interpretation being completed at this time by the Minnesota Attorney General's Office, specifically with respect to the question about a municipal water supply for households receiving a health advisory from the Minnesota Department of Health. We request that the City of North Oaks be included in meetings working on permanent solutions before any actions are completed. We also believe that decisions about permanent solutions might be premature and depend on the further monitoring, testing and analyses being proposed for the near term period.*

### **4. Responsibility and Accountability**

The facts, stresses and emotions involved in this matter have caused questions to be raised by our Council and residents about the specific roles, responsibilities and accountabilities for this

Superfund site, groundwater monitoring, and remediation by our government and the responsible parties. The MPCA needs to assist this community to “restore” the confidence that the MPCA is effectively managing this situation. As you know, this confidence diminishes when the public learns that certain testing or analyses were not completed, certain findings recur when advised that specific actions are complete, e.g. finding and removing additional paint drums in 1993 some five (5) years after the site was “cleaned up”, and there are possible adverse impacts to the community, e.g. property values, real estate transaction details, health conditions and the like.

Certain households in the North Oaks community are troubled by the newest finding of VOCs, which has raised questions about the effectiveness of the responsible state agency in this matter, in addition to the monitoring and testing, analyses, and reporting.

*City of North Oaks Comments:*

*We request that the MPCA address the specific responsibilities and accountabilities for the performance of the responsible parties relative to the remediation orders issued by the MPCA over the past twenty years. Public confidence in the government oversight of this Superfund site is an issue regardless of what has been done to date. We think our community understands the responsibility of the Minnesota Department of Health in these matters, even though we believe we need help with the understanding of the details of the health risks we request addressing through a public education initiative. We need your assistance in the matter of the MPCA responsibility and performance immediately.*

*Second, we request that the City of North Oaks receive regular reports, at least quarterly, about the performance of the approved “plans”, results of monitoring and testing, and planned changes to approved plans. The confidence of our Council and residents needs to be considered in all of these actions as this “problem” is addressed.*

## CONCLUDING COMMENTS

We thank you for providing the City of North Oaks with this opportunity to share our requests, recommendations and ideas about the continued management of this Superfund Dump and the actions and solutions that address our understanding of the needs of our community. This is a very important matter and we appreciate the work that has been completed to date, but believe further comprehensive work is needed.

Again to repeat our purpose and goals for submitting our suggestions and recommendations, the City Council of the City of North Oaks remains concerned about the impact of this recent finding of VOCs on (a) the drinking water at residential homes, clearly more extensively in the residential areas in the eastern part of the city, (b) the negative image of the community presented in recent media accounts of this matter, (c) the negative impact on property values, and (d) the affects on the general well-being of the residents of the community. In addressing this “problem”, the City of North Oaks insists that the MPCA and the responsible parties be prepared to answer two fundamental questions and agree to provide us with solutions through (1) an effective prospective monitoring and testing program, (2) a timely, effective community education and information strategy, and (3) planning for permanent drinking water solutions that address and provide answers to these two questions:

- 1) What is the quality of the water in the aquifers used now or might be used in the future, including the Prairie du Chien aquifer, for residential drinking water in North Oaks?**
- 2) What is the future movement of and chemical composition of the contamination plume(s) emanating from the Superfund Dump site, which**

**based on the 1993-94 findings, entered the residential drinking water wells of the North Oaks community?**

Health risks and health-related issues in this country and our community are ever-present, and we are addressing this Superfund Dump and drinking water matter at a time when our governments are focused on smoking and health risks, researching cancer causes and treatments, and correcting natural resources and environmental situations created by past human behavior. Any subject that directly relates to human health risks will get considerable attention as we have experienced in the recent weeks. The City Council of the City of North Oaks is committed to "doing what is right" to provide safe drinking water to the residents of North Oaks. We believe that we have offered suggestions, recommendations and ideas that better address the objectives described in the MDD and "seeing that our residents are treated fairly."

This letter is simply the City's thoughts on this matter at this time and should not be taken to mean that the City assumes any legal responsibility to remediate the environmental damage caused by the responsible parties; commits to take any specific action; or, commits to incur any costs to compensate those who may have been damaged. Also, the action requested in this letter is the minimum action which the City believes to be appropriate, and should not be interpreted to exclude other action which those persons with greater expertise deem to be reasonable or necessary.

If you have questions about this communication, please contact me. We are available to work with the MPCA to correct a situation the North Oaks residents had no responsibility in creating. Thank you.

Sincerely and respectfully  
on behalf of the City Council of the City of North Oaks,

Thomas N. Watson  
Mayor

cc: Council members, City of North Oaks  
Jeffrey Roos, City Engineer  
Thomas Newcome III, City Attorney  
Jim March, City Administrator