

Highway 96 Project

Community Update February 2006

This newsletter is designed to keep you apprised of monitoring and response actions addressing the vinyl chloride detections in North Oaks well water.

Quarterly sampling of residential wells on the west side of Gilfillan Lake is continuing, with the most recent sampling conducted in November 2005. If your well was tested, you should have received an individualized report of the results from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) in mid-January 2006. You can also find results for the entire community on the City of North Oaks Web site (www.cityofnorth-oaks.com).

REGULATORY ACTIONS

In the fourth quarter of 2005, the engineering firm representing the responsible parties, Conestoga-Rovers & Associates (CRA), tested residential wells on the west side of Gilfillan Lake under the supervision of the MPCA.

During this fourth quarter sampling round, 67 homes were tested. Vinyl chloride was detected only in the wells of the two homes where low levels of vinyl chloride had previously been detected. In both cases, the levels detected continue to be below the state health risk limit. No vinyl chloride was detected at any other homes tested.

The residential well testing data confirm that the vinyl chloride detections are still limited to the 12/13 West Shore and 2 Hummingbird Hill area.

Ongoing remedial work at the Highway 96 Site continues to capture and treat vinyl chloride.

Additional groundwater investigations (i.e. vertical aquifer profiling; monitoring well installations; groundwater level monitoring) have also confirmed that:

- Both the Drift Aquifer and the Prairie du Chien Aquifer have not been impacted by vinyl chloride;
- groundwater flows east to west within the St. Peter Aquifer; and
- residual concentrations of vinyl chloride in the St. Peter Aquifer, east of Gilfillan Lake, continue to decline as a result of natural attenuation.

The MPCA has required the responsible parties to implement the work plan the agency approved in summer 2005 and produce a report that evaluates the available data. The report will be available to the North Oaks community on the City of North Oaks Web site after it is submitted to the MPCA in February 2006.



ONGOING WORK:

As directed and supervised by MPCA, the following work has been and will be conducted:

- New monitoring wells have been installed east and west of Gilfillan Lake to define vinyl chloride concentrations in groundwater. However, access issues have prevented the installation of wells in the 12/13 West Shore area.
- Approximately 30 homes will be tested during the first quarter of 2006, in accordance with the quarterly monitoring program.

QUESTIONS?

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