MINNESOTA PFAS TESTING AND MITIGATION

The Minnesota Department of Public Health (MDH) and Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) work together to investigate and mitigate the presence of PFAS in drinking water in both private wells and sources of supply for municipal systems throughout the state.

MDH and MPCA provide technical assistance to municipal system operators and private well users to employ diverse PFAS mitigation methods that are tailored to each unique set of circumstances. MDH also provides informational materials for the general public that explain MDH and MPCA's available resources and programs, and a fact sheet on PFAS health risks. A complete history of MDH and MPCA's actions to address PFAS (including a regularly-updated timeline that summarizes annual progress going back to 2002) is available online.

The investigation of PFAS in Minnesota's sources of drinking water began in 2002 when a release into groundwater from manufacturing and waste disposal sites east of the Twin Cities was identified. In response, MDH has established health-based values for several PFAS and will update criteria as more information becomes available. There currently are no federal or state maximum contaminant levels for PFAS.

Since PFAS investigation and mitigation activities in the east Twin Cities area began in 2002, over 150 square miles of groundwater contamination affecting the drinking water supplies of over 140,000 Minnesotans have been identified. MDH and MPCA have sampled over 2,800 private wells and issued drinking water advisories for nearly 1,050 where PFAS was detected in levels exceeding statewide health-based criteria. Homes that rely on contaminated wells are routinely either connected to municipal water systems or provided with granular activated carbon filters that are maintained by the state.

An interactive map that contains information about sources of PFAS contamination, sampling results, and priority sampling area boundaries is maintained online by MPCA. MDH also invested in a bio-monitoring study of residents within priority sampling areas to gain additional insight into the efficacy of mitigating actions. Three rounds of sampling completed between 2008 and 2016 showed that PFAS levels in the bodies of participants were higher than average for the general U.S. population, but also demonstrated significant and steady reductions in blood serum levels following the installation of treatment systems.

TYPE
Investment

ISSUE
Source Water