



May 16, 2007

MPCA Citizens' Board
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4194

Dear Commissioners:

In January 2007 the communities of Woodbury and Cottage Grove were informed that trace elements of a 3M manufactured chemical had been found in our municipal wells in addition to wells within our neighboring communities. Since that time we have been working with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), Washington County, and 3M toward reduction or elimination of potential negative impacts of this contaminant.

At its meeting of April 24, 2007, the MPCA Citizens' Board directed the MPCA Commissioner to negotiate an agreement with the 3M Company toward data compilation, analysis and remediation of area ground water contamination. At its May 22, 2007 meeting, the Citizens' Board will be asked by Commissioner Brad Moore to approve a negotiated agreement with 3M pursuant to the April direction of the Board.

In early April 2007 the Woodbury and Cottage Grove City Councils adopted a joint resolution in support of Public Health for their citizenry related to PFC contamination. Within that resolution our communities identified that positive resolution of this issue required in sum:

1. validated HBV or HRL risk levels
2. timely risk level determination
3. resources necessary to provide science and treatment solutions
4. mitigation of landfill contaminants
5. compliance by 3M of all known and future related migration mitigation
6. drinking well contaminant levels below HBVs or HRLs

We believe the proposed agreement provides the opportunity to achieve municipal goals regarding removal and remediation of contaminants. We appreciate that the agreement provides for communication with, and review by, our communities ahead of final determination by the Commissioner of any and all remediation implementation. We further believe that the negotiated agreement path chosen by the Citizens' Board was a wise choice and one which provides the opportunity for a timely, aggressive and positive response to this important health concern. We take comfort that the agreement provides the MPCA Commissioner with latitude to make additional determinations should future measures prove necessary. We believe entering this agreement is in the best interest of the citizenry within Cottage Grove, Woodbury, and the surrounding area. Therefore, we believe the Citizens' Board should approve this agreement.

In order to quickly address the identification and mitigation of negative impacts on our water systems, a number of parties have been required to work aggressively to this positive result. We would like to thank those agencies, individuals and 3M involved in addressing the concerns of our communities in a thoughtful and non-litigious manner. We look forward to continued future efforts from all of these parties to ensure delivery of safe drinking water to our citizens.

While we are encouraged by the progress made thus far, much work remains to be done in the coming months before we can alleviate our citizen's concerns about the safety of their drinking water.

Sincerely,



Sandy Shiely, Mayor
City of Cottage Grove



Bill Hargis, Mayor
City of Woodbury

C: State Representatives for Cottage Grove and Woodbury
News Media