

# Spring Park Municipal Well Field Health Consultation Summary

5/7/2024

The Spring Park Municipal Well Field Site is on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Superfund program's National Priorities List (NPL). It was placed on the list to investigate and address the possible sources of the chemical trichloroethylene (TCE) that contaminated groundwater in two of the three wells that make up the city municipal water supply. Currently, a water treatment plant reduces TCE in drinking water and protects the health of Spring Park water users.

EPA began a groundwater investigation in 2023 and is continuing it in 2024 to help determine the source of the contamination. TCE is a common solvent that may have been used at several manufacturing or commercial properties in Spring Park. In fact, TCE has been found in the shallow groundwater and in soil vapor at properties in Spring Park.



The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is required to conduct public health assessment activities at each site listed on EPA's NPL. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) prepared a public health consultation under a cooperative agreement with ATSDR. The Health Consultation reviews all available environmental data and any potential routes of exposure related to known soil vapor and groundwater contamination in Spring Park and identifies recommendations to protect public health.

## Health Consultation Findings

MDH reached four main conclusions and recommendations regarding potential exposures to contaminants in Spring Park. Below are the two most important findings. More information can be found in the Health Consultation at [Spring Park Municipal Well Field NPL Site \(www.health.state.mn.us/springparknpl\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/springparknpl).

- 1) Spring Park residents and other users of the city water supply are exposed to small amounts of TCE from ingestion of drinking water and inhalation of TCE that evaporates from the water into the indoor air. Exposures to TCE in the city water, both current and past, are not expected to harm people's health.
- 2) TCE is in shallow groundwater and soil vapor in a small area of Spring Park, requiring vapor mitigation systems to prevent TCE exposure in indoor air due to vapor intrusion. Additional testing and continued operation and maintenance of vapor mitigation systems are needed to ensure people are protected from TCE in indoor air.

## Recent drinking water testing results

The city’s finished drinking water has never exceeded the U.S. EPA’s enforceable drinking water standard for public water systems (the maximum contaminant level of 5 micrograms per liter [µg/L]) but has at times exceeded MDH’s health-based guidance value of 0.4 µg/L. The most recent Spring Park drinking water testing did not detect TCE (see results below).

Sample collection month	TCE concentration
August 2023	0.14 µg/L
October 2023	0.18 µg/L
March 2024	<0.1 µg/L (not detected)

MDH/MPCA and the city of Spring Park are continuing to monitor TCE concentrations in drinking water. The city has been troubleshooting the maintenance of the water treatment system to optimize TCE removal to keep it under the MDH value of 0.4 µg/L.

More health information on TCE and water, including home water treatment, can be found at [Spring Park Municipal Well Field NPL Site \(www.health.state.mn.us/springparknpl\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/springparknpl).

## For More Information

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