

Public Health Assessment Summary: Information for Water Gremlin Workers

4/26/2022

The Minnesota Department of Health completed a draft Public Health Assessment (PHA) for the Water Gremlin facility and property. This PHA reviews all available environmental data and describes ways that people could be exposed to contamination from Water Gremlin operations. The PHA provides a written summary and evaluation of environmental investigation findings and a list of conclusions to protect the health of people who live, work or play in the area, including Water Gremlin employees.

The draft Water Gremlin PHA is available for public comment between April 26, 2022 and June 9, 2022. Comments can be submitted by email at health.hazard@state.mn.us. For other options to submit comments, call 651-201-4897. People in the affected communities are invited to review the PHA. MDH welcomes comments that find issues within the document. Issues may be information that is missing, incorrect, or not clear as written.

Main messages for workers

Lead

MDH concludes that exposure to lead may have harmed the health of Water Gremlin workers and their families. Most Water Gremlin workers tested in 2019 had high blood lead levels. To protect the health and safety of its workers and their families, Water Gremlin was required to put in place a number of measures to lower exposure to lead for employees and prevent take-home lead contamination. Worker blood lead levels appear to be lower now.

Adults who work with lead can take certain safety precautions to protect themselves and their families from take-home lead. See [Take-home Lead: A Preventable Risk For Your Family - EH: Minnesota Department of Health \(state.mn.us\)](#)

Solvents

MDH concludes that breathing solvents in the air at the Water Gremlin facility now and in the past may harm the health of some workers. trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene (t-DCE) in indoor air at the facility can be very high because of how it is used. Water Gremlin workers exposed to t-DCE repeatedly at amounts measured in the facility may be at risk of immune effects. Regulatory worker standards may not be adequately protective of all workers.

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