

Water Gremlin

HEALTH ASSESSMENT SERIES | 1,4-DIOXANE AND DRINKING WATER UPDATE

The chemical 1,4-dioxane was detected in the shallow groundwater on the Water Gremlin property at concentrations greater than the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) drinking water guidance value.

Private Well Testing

MDH collected water samples from eleven private wells in late January and early February, 2020. Three of the eleven wells had detectable levels of 1,4-dioxane. The concentrations found were between 0.06 and 0.12 parts per billion (ppb), significantly less than the 1 ppb health-based drinking water guidance value.

Next steps for additional private well testing

MPCA and MDH have recommendations for locations where private wells either need to be sampled or confirmed that the wells are not in use. The priority areas are where 1,4-dioxane was detected, immediately south and west of Water Gremlin and along Goose Lake Road. Additional private wells in other locations around the plant may also be sampled as needed, once the priority sampling is completed.

Water Gremlin's environmental consultant, Wenck, will be sending letters to approximately 100 residents in June. The letter will be sent to residents where MPCA and MDH recommend sampling, if wells are present and in use. If you receive this letter, please provide the information requested, and if applicable, allow a water sample to be collected from your well.

MPCA and MDH will review the water sampling test results and determine if any additional action is necessary. MPCA and MDH will also determine if any additional wells will need to be sampled based on the testing results.

How can we trust the well sampling results?

MPCA will receive the testing results directly from the laboratory. In addition, MPCA will send a contractor out to a select number of homes during Wenck's sample collection. The MPCA contractor will collect additional samples at the same time and these will be analyzed by a separate laboratory, the MDH Public Health Laboratory (PHL). MPCA will compare the PHL results to Wenck's results to verify the testing results.

White Bear Township Municipal Well Testing

In March 2020, MDH collected samples from three White Bear Township municipal wells that are closest to Water Gremlin. No 1,4-dioxane was detected in any of the wells.

Additional Groundwater Sampling

MPCA is overseeing additional sampling of the groundwater by Wenck. This work is expected to start this summer and continue into the fall. MPCA will receive the sampling results directly from the testing lab. This additional sampling data will help us understand more about the extent and source of the 1,4-dioxane groundwater contamination.

Questions?

To contact MDH, call (651) 201-4897 and leave a message or email health.hazard@state.mn.us.

To contact MPCA, call 651-757-2998 or email water.gremlin.mpca@state.mn.us.

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To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-4897.