

ATSDR Public Health Investment

Minnesota

CDC/ATSDR support helps Minnesota reduce exposures to hazardous substances in the environment

Minnesota is one of 25 states using ATSDR cooperative agreement funds to build their capacity to assess and respond to site-specific issues involving human exposure to hazardous substances in the environment.

Public Health in Action

Bayport Public Drinking Water — In February 2014, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) issued a health risk advisory that trichloroethylene (TCE) levels in processed drinking water from two wells were near levels that might harm health. The TCE advisory and MDH's support helped the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) secure funding to reduce or eliminate TCE concentrations in Bayport's drinking water.

Key projects

- **General Mills – Henkel Superfund site** — The site is contaminated with trichloroethylene (TCE); inhaling TCE is the greatest health concern. MDH worked with partner agencies to ensure mitigation systems are installed in homes to keep harmful vapors out and protect people living in nearly 200 homes in Minneapolis. ATSDR scientists helped MDH evaluate the short-term risks of TCE exposures.
- **Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in the Twin Cities East Metro Area** — In response to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Health Advisory for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctyl sulfonate (PFOS), MDH developed new health-based drinking water guidance values for these chemicals and has since found nearly 400 private wells with levels above the new guidance values. MDH and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) provided bottled water to affected people until water filters can be installed. MDH has recently sampled approximately 700 wells within the area of contamination and will continue to investigate and issue additional drinking water advisories as needed.

State Priorities

- **Health Equity** — Engaging communities to address inequities that contribute to health disparities and working to advance health equity in all MDH activities; protecting all Minnesotans from health risks caused by chemical hazards in air, water, or soil where people live, work and play.
- **Safe Drinking Water** — Evaluating drinking water sources and supplies containing PFAS, chlorinated compounds, metals, and other contaminants that can harm human health. ATSDR regional staff and PFAS subject matter experts ensure the proper application of the latest federal health advisories.
- **Indoor Air Quality** — Evaluating sites to determine if chemicals in groundwater and soil might enter indoor air (vapor intrusion) in homes, schools, nursing homes, daycare facilities, and workplaces.

Minnesota

Award amount:

\$469,654 per year

Term: 3 years

Grantee since: 1987

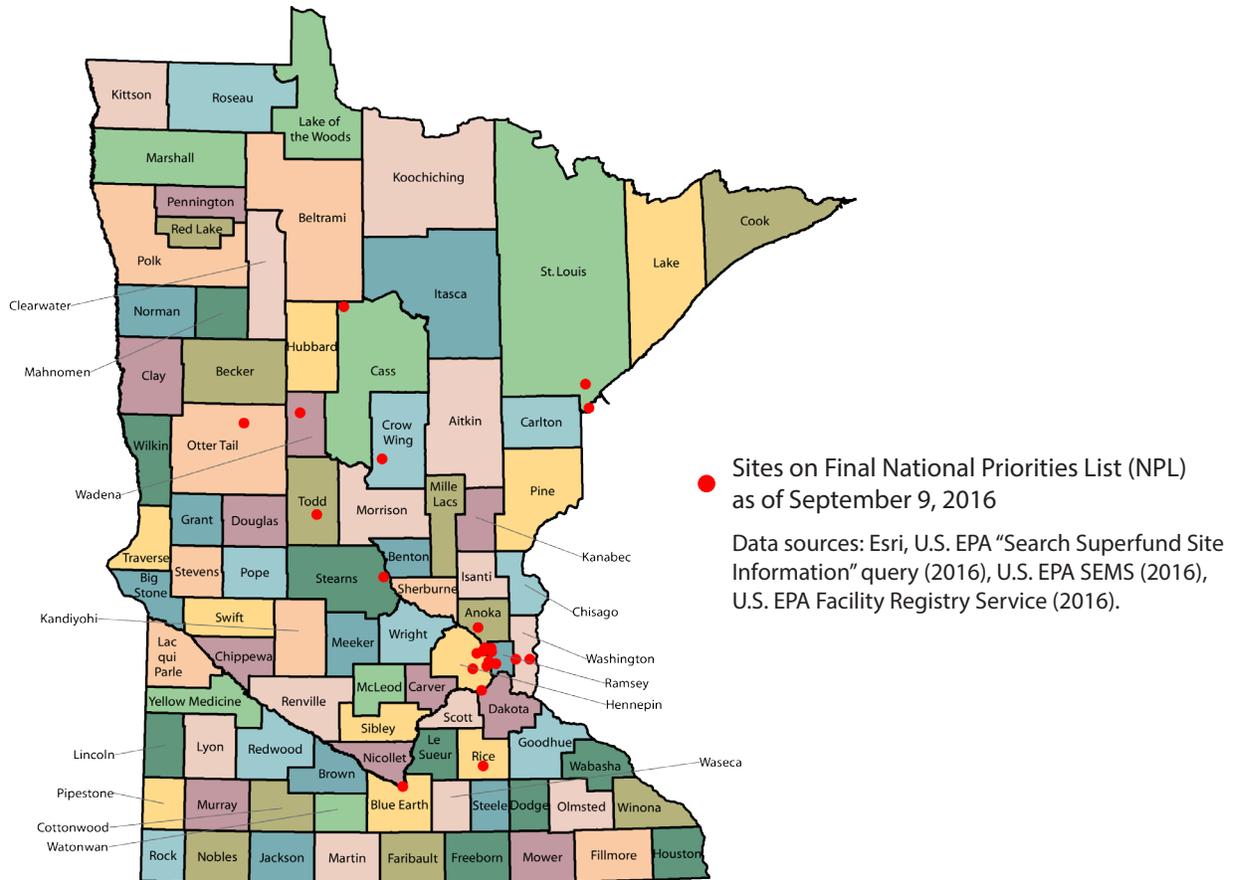
About ATSDR

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Diseases Registry (ATSDR), based in Atlanta, Georgia along with 10 regional offices, is a federal public health agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. ATSDR serves the public by using the best science, taking responsive public health actions, and providing trusted health information to prevent harmful exposures and diseases related to toxic substances.

"Thank you for the detailed review and recommendations. This information will be essential in the County's decisions on how to manage the land use changes in the future. Again, we appreciate your timely and thorough assistance!" Angie Berg.

Did You Know?

- Of the 406 sites where MPCA determined potential for vapor intrusion due to hazardous substances in soil and groundwater, 292 have been re-evaluated. MPCA found a clear risk for vapor problems at 91 sites. MDH and MPCA work together to protect the health of people in affected buildings.
- Health professional development opportunities offered by MDH include Environmental Exposure Grand Rounds, Medical Toxicology Fellow Rotations, and Case Discussions. These activities build state capacity to provide quality health care and support for people concerned about exposures to environmental toxins.



Learn more

Follow these links to learn more about programs protecting public health in Minnesota:

ATSDR — <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/>

Division of Community Health Investigations (DCHI) — <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hac/index.html>

ATSDR Public Health Assessments and Consultations for Minnesota — <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HAC/PHA/HCPHA.asp?State=MN>

Minnesota Department of Health —

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/>

MN Hazardous Sites and Substances —

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/hazardous/>

About Hazardous Sites and Released in MN

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/hazardous/sites/index.html>

MN Environmental Exposure Grand Rounds —

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/hazardous/topics/eegrandrounds/index.html>

ATSDR – The most trusted Agency protecting American communities from environmental health threats through application of state of the art science.

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