

# Spring Park Municipal Well Field Health Consultation - Public Comment Release

5/2/2023

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 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.

## **People in the community are invited to review the Health Consultation and provide feedback.**

The Spring Park Health Consultation is available for public comment between May 2, 2023 and June 20, 2023. The document can be accessed at [Spring Park Municipal Well Field NPL Site \(www.health.state.mn.us/springparknpl\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/springparknpl). Comments can be submitted by email at [health.hazard@state.mn.us](mailto:health.hazard@state.mn.us). If you'd like a paper copy of the document or for other options to submit comments, call 651-201-4897. MDH will review all comments. Changes or responses to comments will be reflected in the final version of the Health Consultation.

## Health Consultation Findings

MDH reached six 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 vapor testing results

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) sampled soil vapor surrounding the Tonka Business Center (TBC) buildings in the fall of 2022. The results show that the soil vapor plume does not extend to the south of these buildings, and therefore properties to the south do not need to be investigated. The MPCA is planning additional soil vapor sampling near Lakeview Lofts. The additional sampling will be conducted because of elevated TCE and naphthalene amounts found in soil vapor between TBC and Lakeview Lofts.

## 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 [ $\mu\text{g/L}$ ]) but has at times exceeded MDH's health-based guidance value of 0.4  $\mu\text{g/L}$ . Since the Health Consultation was written, Spring Park drinking water testing has shown higher than typical amounts of TCE as shown below.

Sample collection month	TCE concentration
November 2022	0.79 $\mu\text{g/L}$
December 2022	0.67 $\mu\text{g/L}$
February 2023	0.38 $\mu\text{g/L}$

MDH/MPCA and the city of Spring Park are continuing to monitor TCE concentrations in drinking water. The city is troubleshooting the maintenance of the water treatment system to optimize TCE removal to keep it under the MDH value of 0.4  $\mu\text{g/L}$ .

While the recent amounts of TCE in the water are not expected to harm people's health, residents may choose to filter or use alternative water to reduce their exposure to TCE, particularly for infants or small children. 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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To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-4897.