

Oakdale Disposal Site project information



History

The Oakdale Disposal Site, generally located between Hadley Avenue North and Granada Avenue North in Oakdale, Minnesota, is a Superfund site, comprised of three properties that functioned as disposal sites for 3M during the 1940s and 1950s. These properties include the approximately 55-acre Abresch site, the 9.2-acre Brockman site, and the two-acre Eberle site. Industrial and commercial waste disposal operations contaminated surface water, soil, and groundwater with hazardous chemicals, including per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), a group of more than 12,000 human-made chemicals that do not break down over time.

In April 2023, the City of Oakdale announced plans to construct a new public works facility at the Brockman site, with construction to begin in late 2023 or early 2024. 3M is donating this site, located on the southwest corner of 32nd Street North and Granada Avenue North, to the city.

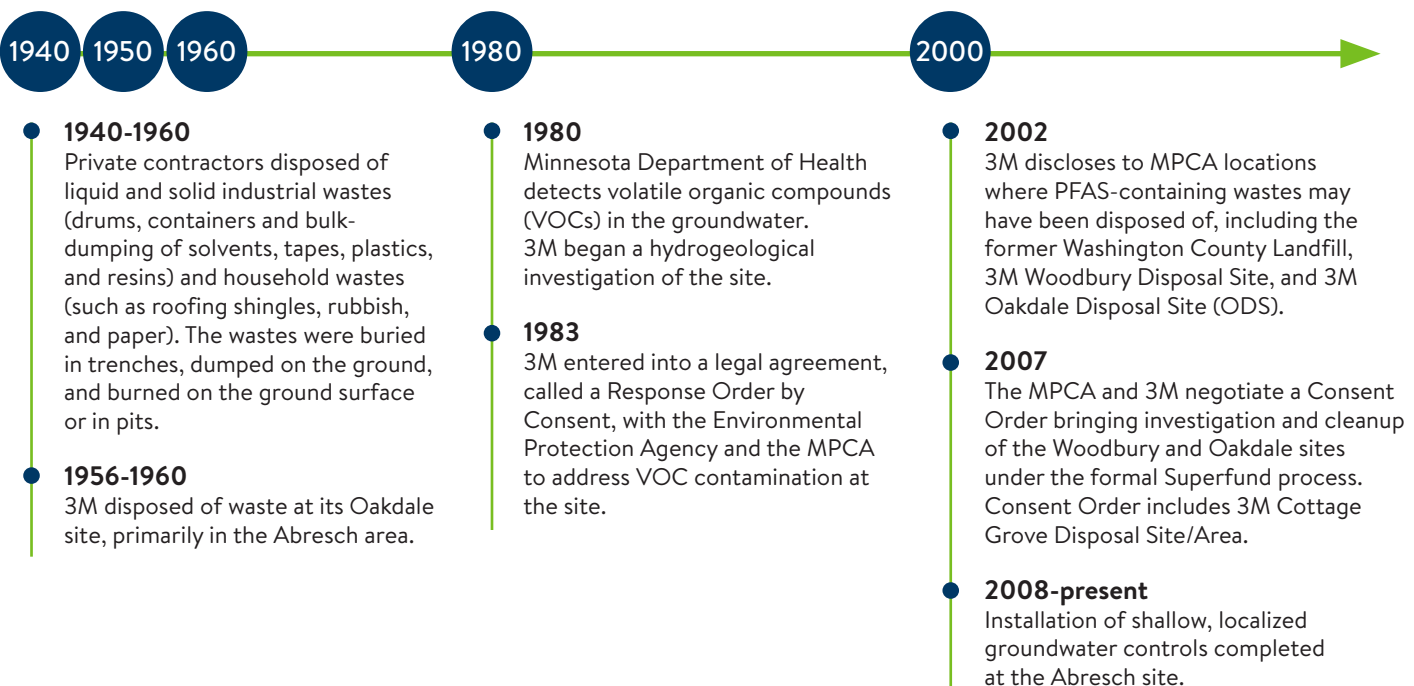
Waste removal from the site occurred early in the process to address immediate threats to human health and the environment. However, PFAS contamination continues to spread from the Oakdale Disposal Site throughout the East Metro via surface and groundwater. PFAS concentrations originating from the site have not shown significant reduction since an investigation into the site began in 2019. Moreover, there is no evidence that groundwater concentrations are decreasing across the system. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is addressing the ongoing impacts from the Oakdale Disposal Site in accordance with the EPA's Superfund process and a Consent Order that 3M signed in 2007, which guarantees drinking water protection for municipal and private wells in the East Metro.

Short-term clean up

11,500 cubic yards of waste material were removed from the site in 1982:

- 4,200 empty drums
- 8,700 empty 5-gallon pails
- 4,660 cubic yards of contaminated soil
- 15 intact, overpacked containers

Soil with low levels of contamination received on-site treatment. 173,000 gallons of contaminated water were treated off-site.

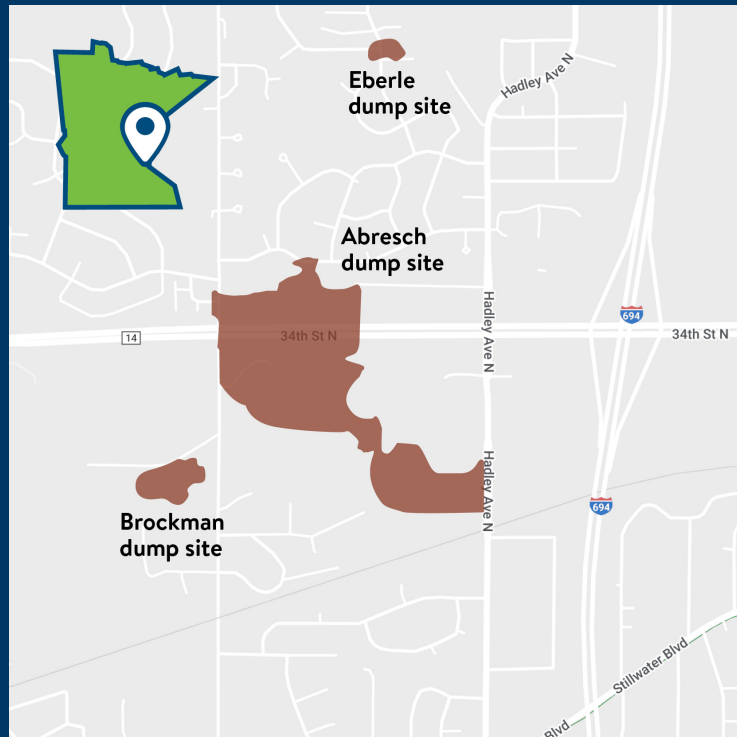


The work going forward

Before construction of the public works facility can begin, 3M must remove remaining waste from the Brockman parcel, excavate and dispose of impacted soils, and pump out polluted groundwater. When construction is finished, ongoing monitoring will assess any remaining onsite and offsite pollution. The MPCA is overseeing this work to ensure short- and long-term protection of human health and the environment.

Separately, the MPCA is requesting additional data to fill in gaps of the overall investigation of the Brockman parcel as part of the larger Oakdale Disposal Site Superfund site.

The larger Oakdale Disposal Site Superfund project is also progressing. Information from this project will be combined with data from the 2018 3M settlement's Project 1007 Study. The combined effort will provide decision-makers with long-term options for reducing regional effects from the Oakdale Disposal Sites.



3M settlement background

Minnesota's attorney general sued 3M in 2010, alleging that the company's production of PFAS had damaged drinking water and natural resources in the Twin Cities metro area. Eight years later, 3M paid \$850 million to settle that lawsuit.

After covering legal and other expenses, approximately \$720 million remained for drinking water and natural resource projects in the East Metro. The MPCA and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources are co-trustees of these funds.

In August 2021, the co-trustees released the Conceptual Drinking Water Supply Plan, a comprehensive strategy to enhance the quality, quantity, and sustainability of drinking water for the 14 affected communities in the East Metro, benefiting roughly 174,000 people. The settlement funding is allocated to three areas: capital infrastructure, operation and maintenance, and drinking water protection.

Get in touch

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