

Project 1007 PFOS Sediment Testing – Frequently Asked Questions

- **Q: Is the water still safe to drink?**
 - A: Yes. Groundwater is the source of drinking water for your community, which is treated by your city, monitored by the Minnesota Department of Health, and is safe to drink. Safe drinking water is a top priority of the 3M Settlement and State agencies; municipal water supply is not impacted by these findings.

- **Q: Is it safe to garden or play in backyards near the wetland?**
 - A: There is still not enough information to be able to predict how much PFAS will end up in a particular garden plant. We do know that studies from the Minnesota Department of Health show that plants can absorb PFAS from soil and water.
 - We also know there are steps you can take to reduce PFAS levels in your garden. Switch to filtered water, or water from another safe source for your garden if feasible. Maximize use of rainwater (e.g., rain barrels) for garden watering. Bring in clean soil and create raised beds. Add high organic carbon sources like compost, peat and manure that do not contain PFAS to garden soil. Wash all produce in clean water and peel or scrub root vegetables before eating.
 - Factors that influence how much PFAS may be in plants include: levels of PFAS in the water and soil, frequency of watering, type of PFAS, soil properties, plant part, and produce type. Learn more about PFAS and gardening from the [Minnesota Department of Health](#).

- **Q: What precautions should residents take?**
 - A: The MPCA advises local residents, especially children, to not enter the neighborhood wetland or banks of Raleigh Creek or handle the soil in these areas. Exposure to PFAS can happen through ingestion of contaminated soil or dust, and repeat exposure has potential health implications over time.
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- **Q: Why are we just learning about this now?**
 - A: MPCA re-evaluated PFAS sediment screening values earlier this year. This impacted the testing results for the area along Raleigh Creek. Those sediment samples now exceed the 2-day and 5-day exposure values for sediments.

- **Q: What steps are being taken to address the contamination? What are the long-term plans?**

A: This pollution is part of the Oakdale Disposal Superfund site (ODS). The Superfund program operates under a "polluter pays" law, meaning 3M, as the responsible party, is obligated to carry out remedial actions.

The MPCA is actively working with 3M to finalize their long-term cleanup plans. Key actions will likely include site evaluation and monitoring to better define the extent of contamination, removal of contaminated sediments, and establishing a long-term monitoring plan to ensure the effectiveness of the cleanup efforts.

ABOUT PFAS

- **Q: What are PFAS and why are they a concern?**
 - **A:** PFAS, or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, are a group of more than 12,000 human-made chemicals used in various industrial and consumer products since the 1940s due to their ability to repel water and oil and resist high temperatures. Common products containing PFAS include nonstick cookware, stain resistant fabrics, and firefighting foams. PFAS are concerning because they do not easily break down in the environment, leading to accumulation over time. Exposure to certain PFAS, like PFOA and PFOS, has been linked to adverse health effects such as cancer, liver damage, and developmental issues. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) are actively studying and addressing PFAS contamination to protect public health and the environment.

- **Q: What specific PFAS have been found in the sediment along Raleigh Creek and the wetlands?**
 - **A:** Elevated levels of PFOA and PFOS have been detected in sediment samples. Maps showing the PFAS values are available on the Project 1007 webpage on the 3M Settlement website.

- **Q: How did the PFAS contamination occur?**
 - **A:** 3M disposed of PFAS-containing waste in the former Oakdale Disposal site (ODS), between Hadley Avenue North and Granada Avenue North in Oakdale, Minnesota. Industrial and commercial waste disposal operations contaminated surface water, soil, and groundwater with hazardous chemicals, including PFAS, during the 1940s and 1950s. Since then, the PFAS contamination has traveled to the east and southeast along Raleigh Creek.

- **Q: Where can residents find more information?**
 - **A:** Please visit the following links:
 - [3M Settlement website](#)
 - [Project 1007 webpage](#)
 - [Oakdale Disposal fact sheet](#)
 - [MDH – PFAS and Health](#)

- **Q: What will happen if recommendations change in the future?**
 - **A:** The MPCA will keep you updated on any changes.