



Timeline

September 1969	City expresses concern about air and water pollution problems at the Reilly Tar and Chemical site. Hickok and Associates, an engineering firm retained by the City, finds phenols in the soil and in water taken from City wells.
September/October 1970	City Council authorizes legal action against Reilly Tar and Chemical to enforce its environmental ordinances and recommends that the Attorney General authorize prosecution for Reilly Tar and Chemical's violation of State pollution laws and regulations.
October 2, 1970	The State, through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), and the City of St. Louis Park file a complaint in Hennepin County District Court of Minnesota alleging violations by Reilly Tar and Chemical of state and local pollution control laws and regulations.
September 1971	Reilly Tar and Chemical closes its plant.
April 14, 1972	City executes a purchase agreement for the Reilly site in the amount of \$1.9 million.
December 1972	City receives approval from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for a Neighborhood Development Program grant totaling \$1.8 million for redevelopment of the Reilly Tar and Chemical site.
June 19, 1973	City closes on sale of property and signs hold harmless agreement with Reilly Tar and Chemical as a substitute for dismissal by the State of the 1970 Hennepin County lawsuit against Reilly Tar and Chemical.
June 21, 1973	The St. Louis Park Housing and Redevelopment Authority purchases the property from the City.
January 1974	Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) analysis shows phenols in municipal wells.
April 1974	City retains Gerald Sunde to conduct hydrogeological study. In this study, Sunde concludes that wells open to several aquifers may provide a route for the spread of contamination.



1975-1977	Barr Engineering conducts a study to assess the magnitude and extent of contamination. The report is funded by a State legislative appropriation. Conclusions call for construction of a gradient control well network, removal of heavily contaminated soil and further definition of the hydrology of the area.
July 1978	MDH contracts with the U.S. Geological Survey to define groundwater flow and movement of contaminants.
October 1978	MDH identifies the presence of polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) compounds in four City wells. The City closes Wells No. 7, 9, 10 and 15. These wells are located 1/2 mile from the site and account for 9 percent of the City's water pumpage.
November 1979	City closes Well No. 4 located 1½ miles from the Reilly site. City conducts study of processes to remove PAH compounds from the water.
May 1980	Water use restrictions are imposed by the City to ensure adequate water supply.
June 1980	City retains Hickok and Associates to prepare a feasibility study on carbon adsorption processes.
September 1980	Federal government sues Reilly Tar and Chemical in Federal District Court under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).
October 1980	City and State intervene in federal lawsuit. Federal Court agrees to hear all state law claims in addition to federal law claims.
February 1981	Hopkins Well No. 3 located 1 mile from the site is closed.
July 1981	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) releases \$200,000 to MPCA for a well evaluation and survey program.
August 1981	City closes Well No. 5 located 1½ miles from the site.
October 1981	City begins drilling new Deep Well No. 17 to increase City's water supply.

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November 1981	A state-funded study by Hickok and Associates concludes that addressing containment of the contaminants is a top priority.
December 1981	City signs an agreement with City of Plymouth for a water interconnection.
January 1982	City adopts policy outlined in the report "Terminating an Endless Search: An Action Approach to Solving the Water Problem" calling for completion of a water treatment study to allow a facility to be in operation by September 1983. The report also calls for a health risk study and a study to delineate the boundaries of source fluids and materials in order to evaluate the requirements of a gradient control well system.
August 1982	MPCA retains CH2M Hill to complete an evaluation of groundwater treatment and potable water supply alternatives.
December 1982	MPCA receives \$1.9 million in Superfund monies for further testing and cleanup activities.
May 1983	Well No. 17 is placed into operation.
May 1983	CH2M Hill presents its recommendation calling for a granular activated carbon (GAC) treatment system at Wells No. 10 and 15.
May 1983	ERT, consultants retained by Reilly Tar and Chemical, present their recommendations which suggest that iron removal processes will remove carcinogenic PAH compounds.
July 5, 1983	City adopts policy contained in "A Plan for Action: Closing in on a Groundwater Solution" which calls for confirming health risk criteria for PAH compounds, proceeding with the development of water treatment alternatives and a study of source fluids, continuing multi-aquifer well abandonment activities and reviewing data and findings submitted by ERT, consultants for Reilly Tar and Chemical.

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December 1983	Negotiations between the parties occur to determine the contents of the Consent Decree and RAP. City and Reilly Tar and Chemical negotiate implementation of remedial action measures and allocate funding and performance responsibilities.
June 6, 1984	EPA issues Record of Decision on CH2M Hill drinking water treatment feasibility study, making project eligible for federal funding.
August 1, 1984	EPA issues Administrative Order requiring Reilly Tar and Chemical to design and construct the drinking water treatment system.
September 1984	U.S. Geological Survey completes groundwater modeling effort, permitting analysis of gradient control systems to prevent further spread of contaminated groundwater.
October 1984	MPCA completes cleanout and investigation of two deep wells on the site, one of which contains large quantities of coal-tar product.
August 28, 1985	MPCA and MDH approve the design of the GAC water treatment plant submitted by Reilly Tar and Chemical.
September 10, 1985	EPA gives its approval to the GAC water treatment design plans.
September 19, 1985	Calgon, contractor for Reilly Tar and Chemical, begins construction of the GAC water treatment plant located at 29th St. and Idaho Ave.
December 27, 1985	Completion of the GAC water treatment plant.