



MPCA hoping to avoid cleanup costs

By Kevin Dinz

Public funds should not finance the cleanup of a Fridley hazardous-waste dump that gained national attention last week for topping the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) most-dangerous list, a state agency insisted Monday.

"If at all possible, we will try to get the responsible party to pay for what has to be done," said Paul Hoff, a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) spokesman. "We won't use public money unless it can't be helped."

The Fridley site, owned by the FMC Corp. that operates a munitions plant nearby, was rated the nation's most dangerous dump because its leaking chemical solvents have contaminated nearby wells and threaten to pollute Minneapolis' water supply.

The site headed a list of 418 abandoned dumps in the United States, in-

cluding nine others in Minnesota. The list determines which sites will have first dibs on \$1.6 billion in clean-up money from the federal Superfund.

U.S. Rep. Gerry Sikorski (DFl-6th District) already has sent a letter to EPA head Anne Gorsuch requesting Superfund dollars to clean up four hazardous-waste dumps in his district, including the FMC-Fridley site.

But the MPCA does not anticipate the need for any Superfund money, because "so far FMC has cooperated and done what had to be done," Hoff said.

There is also some dispute whether the Fridley site would qualify for Superfund money.

"The so-called Superfund was basically put together to deal with abandoned waste dumps or dumps where companies were no longer solvent, and this certainly doesn't apply here," said Richard Johnston, an FMC spokesman. "We recognize our responsibility and are ready to do whatever is necessary to keep the dump from becoming a hazard."

The FMC Corp. used the 11-acre site to dump several types of waste, including solvent TCE, from 1964 to 1969. But no one knows which chemicals were dumped there by the Northern Ordinance Co., FMC's predecessor at the site, because companies were not required to keep waste records then.

Dumps to 13

Dumps from 5

Officials don't know how much the cleanup will cost or how long it will take.

"Until further soil and groundwater studies are completed, we don't know what additional work will be required," Johnston said.

According to MPCA's tests, the chemical seepage from the Fridley site does not pose a hazard to any drinking water. Traces of TCE in the Mississippi River have reached a level of one part per billion; a level of 27 parts per billion is considered a health hazard.

The MPCA found that three wells on FMC property contained TCE levels in excess of the standard, and subsequently closed them. TCE traces also were found in one municipal well in Fridley, but they fell within the safety margin, Hoff said.

In the long run, officials must decide whether to try for containment or removal of the leaked chemicals, Hoff said. Contaminated water could be stopped from flowing away from the site if it were pumped out and allowed to evaporate. The other approach would be the excavation and removal of solid waste matter.

The latter choice would still present a waste disposal problem, however, "because everything must go somewhere, including what they dig out," Hoff said. This would require shipping the hazardous waste outside the state, because Minnesota has no approved hazardous-waste disposal sites.

Meanwhile, the Minnesota Department of Transportation will step up its enforcement of hazardous waste transportation regulations, Gordon Boldt, acting director, announced last week.

Minnesota still has 58 known "improper" hazardous-waste dumps, Hoff said, some of which, like the Reilly Tar and Chemical dump in St. Louis Park, the MPCA considers more dangerous than the Fridley site.

The discrepancy between the EPA and MPCA rankings arises from the state agency's emphasis on "actual" rather than "potential" damages, Hoff said.

Because the Fridley dump has not contaminated drinking water sources, the MPCA does not consider it as dangerous as the Reilly Tar site, where hazardous wastes were thrown

directly into a well decades ago.

"This made for a real bad situation," Hoff said, "because the well provided a pathway for reaching the groundwater."

Last week the MPCA received a long-awaited \$1.9 million from the Superfund to clean up the St. Louis Park dump. But this won't prevent the state, the federal government, and the City of St. Louis Park from suing Reilly Tar and Chemical for damages.

"All the work has been done at public expense so far, and we think the company ought to be held responsible," Hoff said.

Because Minnesota had no specific hazardous waste regulations before 1980, Hoff said, the state will rely on commonlaw provisions against creating public health problems.

"The EPA list was put out because they're required to do it under the Superfund law," the MPCA spokesman said. "But that doesn't guarantee that more funds will come. But if we can clean up the dumps without resorting to public money, so much the better."

Other Minnesota dump sites on the EPA list are in St. Paul, Oakdale, New Brighton-Arden Hills, St. Louis Park, two others in Anoka County, and one each in Crow Wing and Blue Earth counties.

1-85
MPCA - Corp.
Fridley, Minn.



State uncovers waste dumps with help of 'hot line' tipsters

By Dean Rebuffoni
Staff Writer

Tribune
4/11/83

It started with a telephone call in late 1980. The caller said there might be a serious environmental problem in Fridley.

The caller said chemical wastes were buried near a munitions plant and urged his listener, an employee of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), to investigate.

That tip led to the discovery of what the federal government says is the most dangerous known hazardous waste dump in the United States. It also led to the discovery of two other worrisome dumps in the same area.

"We wouldn't know about the other sites if we hadn't gotten a tip about the first one," said Michael Kanner. "We don't mind taking credit for doing a good job and finding the other two, but it really started with

that tip."

Kanner heads the MPCA's Hazardous Waste Strike Force. It's not a title that he likes ("It makes us sound like we carry machine guns"), but it's a title befitting a team that ferrets out chemical caches.

The nine-member team was formed in November 1980, when the MPCA

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Mon., April 11, 1983

Hotline

Continued from page 1

also set up a "hot line" for citizens to report suspected illegal dumps. The agency since has received 540 such tips. They have led Kanner and his fellow investigators to perhaps as many as 25 of the sites subsequently entered on the MPCA's hazardous waste log.

The log is a list of sites that the MPCA believes pose a real or potential threat to public health and the environment. About 70 sites have been listed on the log since it was created, but some have been dropped because of cleanup work.

When the log was created, the MPCA already knew about 31 waste dumps scattered across Minnesota. The log now lists 61 dumps, including the one near the FMC munitions plant in Fridley.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says that dump is the nation's most dangerous hazardous waste disposal site. The MPCA doesn't agree with that rating, saying there are worse dumps in Minnesota. State officials also say that, judging by their studies, chemicals dumped at the Fridley site are not an imminent health hazard.

But the MPCA isn't pooch-pooching the potential problem of ground water contamination at the site, and Kanner stressed that he's delighted that someone took the time to tip off his agency.

He isn't revealing anything else about that tipster. He keeps such information confidential to ensure that the public will continue providing worthwhile tips.

The hot line is not quite like the one that connects Ronald Reagan and Yuri Andropov. In fact, although there is a hot-line phone for citizens to complain about hazardous wastes, the agency receives its tips several ways.

For example, the one that led to the discovery of the FMC dump site was received by the MPCA's water-quality division, which passed it to Kanner's team. Similar referrals have been made by other MPCA units.

"When we set up the hot line, I thought it would be a mixed bag," said Kanner. "I expected a wide range of tips, from nut calls to folks with solid information. And we have gotten some real zeros, and some information we already knew about. But we've also gotten information that we didn't have ourselves, and that includes the FMC site."

As valuable as that tip was, it was only the first step in the long process of determining whether the site actually contained hazardous wastes.

After Kanner got the tip, his investigators began poring over documents to determine what wastes might have been produced by FMC's Northern Ordnance Division and buried at the Fridley site. They also scrutinized aerial photographs, an investigative tool that has proved valuable.

Several government agencies and at least one private business have extensive collections of aerial photographs of Minnesota, and particularly the Twin Cities area, dating back to the 1940s. Using magnifying glasses, the MPCA investigators spotted on one photo an area near the FMC plant where large amounts of topsoil had been excavated.

They determined that solvents, paint sludges and other waste chemicals had been buried on the tract, and that the wastes had contaminated ground water. They learned that the wastes had been dumped from 1941 through 1964 by Northern Pump Co., and from 1964 through 1969 by FMC. The MPCA took its evidence to FMC, which is cooperating with state officials in investigating the contamination.

But the original tip led to another discovery. While scrutinizing an aerial photo of a tract next to FMC's property, an MPCA investigator spotted what appeared to be a trench containing large drums.

Kanner said his team learned that the drums contained industrial solvents, and that they were buried in the trench during the 1970s. The site is part of the U.S. Navy's Naval Sea Systems Command. The navy is examining its records to determine how much waste is buried there, and is preparing a plan for removal of the drums.

And the original tip led to a third dump. Kanner explained that, after the discovery of the FMC dump, a nearby firm decided to sample a well on its property to determine if chemicals had contaminated the water.

The well was tainted, and so was ground water below that property. Kanner said the well's owner, Kurt Manufacturing Co., then complained to FMC, suggesting that the munitions maker was the source of the contaminants.

In turn, FMC told the MPCA about the problem at the well owned by Kurt, which makes machine parts. The MPCA has asked the company to determine the source of the chemical contaminants.

"The best part of this job is the detective work," said Kanner. "It's a lot of fun, and our investigative work involves using everything from aerial photos to old newspaper clippings, maps and information at the

4-11-83
FMC
Kanner

Minnesota Historical Society."

He said that although the tipsters have been people from all walks of life, many are workers who call to complain that their employers might be improperly disposing of the company's chemical wastes.

But some tips haven't proved fruitful.

For example, Kanner once talked with an elderly woman who complained of some apparently dangerous gunk in her yard. She said it had crossed the fence dividing her property from a neighbor's yard.

The gunk turned out to be soap suds, the frothy residue of a washed car.

On another occasion a man complained of the dumping of hazardous wastes, but declined to give the MPCA many details. He said the dumping was part of a global conspiracy, hinting that he might be subjected to drastic reprisals if the conspirators learned he had squealed to the authorities.

Another tipster recently reported that some mysterious metal barrels had washed ashore at Lake Minnetonka. Kanner's investigators have yet to check out that tip, but he suspects they'll find that the barrels are the remnants of a pontoon boat.

Which brings up a problem: It takes the investigators about four weeks to inspect a hot line tip personally.

Sometimes those tips strike close to home.

Wikre recently got one about a company that apparently once manufactured a particularly toxic chemical in Duluth and then moved to

Here are MPCA's hot-line numbers

Minnesotans who know where hazardous wastes might be buried should call the hot-line number — (612) 297-2736 — at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Outstate residents can dial a toll-free number, 1-800-652-9747. Both telephones are manned from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

There also is an after-hours "spills" phone, to be used when spilled chemicals or other wastes pose an imminent threat to public health or the environment. Its number is (612) 296-7373, but the MPCA discourages its use for anything other than emergencies.

gator, Bruce Wilson, to check it out.

Wilson learned that the company indeed had once operated in the state, but he told Wikre that it was difficult to find more specific data about the firm.

Wikre turned to a possible source of information: A 1980 St. Paul telephone directory. *Voila!* It revealed that the elusive company once was located at 1835 W. County Rd. B2 in Roseville.

That happens to be the building that has the main offices of — *Voila!* — the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

A further investigation revealed that the company apparently had once had a sales office in the building, whose owner also leases space to several private businesses. Wikre said the chemical company apparently did not leave any hazardous wastes behind.

County votes 92% against dump site

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Leaders of Wisconsin's anti-nuclear movement have applauded referendum results opposing the state as a site for radioactive dumps.

With 3,584 of the state's 3,616 election wards unofficially tabulated, the "no" votes won Tuesday 617,814-78,082. The referendum, the first in the nation on the subject, was advisory. It lacks authority to halt the government.

Ninety-two percent of Douglas County voters opposed location of such a dump within the state. The Douglas County totals on that referendum were 12,025-986 in opposition.

"We feel this will send a strong message to the U.S. Department of Energy that Wisconsin voters are not willing to become the next generation of guinea pigs for the nuclear industry," said Cassandra Dixon, director of the Lake Superior Region Radioactive Waste Project.

Wisconsin is one of 17 states being considered as a location for a second or third dump. The department is concentrating its search for the first site in six states: Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, Texas, Utah and Washington.

Final selection of the site is to be made in the very near future. Once finalized, this site will be the only landfill to be used for all garbage and other refuse for the entire city of Duluth and surrounding area, a total of 500 square miles.

The matter of water quality in our North Shore streams and Lake Superior I believe is of concern to many people in the Twin Cities area — particularly those of you who use the North Shore for vacation activities.

Please register your opposition to this area as a landfill site with John Klaers, Western Lake Superior Sanitary District, 27th Avenue West and Waterfront, Duluth, Minn. 55806.

Duluth: GERALD H. COMPTON

RE: 4/6/83 Lakeshore landfill

This is to inform residents of the Metropolitan area concerning the proposed location of a two hundred-acre landfill site adjacent to the North Shore of Lake Superior in Duluth Township.

Duluth Township lies along the North Shore, between the Duluth city limits and the Keweenaw River.

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Mr. Walter Pore
FMC Corp
Duluth, Minn
Edna Helle
John S. - Robert S. S. S.

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H.W. Men-Ridley 5-31-83

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FMC offers to clean up toxic Fridley dump

Waste Continued from page 1A

By Dean Rebuffoni
Staff Writer

The FMC Corp. is proposing to spend \$6 million to clean up a site in Fridley that the federal government says is the nation's most dangerous hazardous-waste dump.

The company said Friday that the cleanup would involve treating chemical contaminants on its property in Fridley to neutralize their toxicity. Over a long period, perhaps as much as 30 years, the contaminants would be vaporized before being emitted into the atmosphere.

That process would not threaten public health nor the environment, said Epley, a company vice president and general manager of its Northern Ordnance Division. That plant at 4800 E. River Rd., makes guided missile launchers and automated gun mounts for the U.S. Navy.

The cleanup plan has been submitted to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. They are reviewing the plan, and are

expected to soon announce whether they believe it is feasible.

At least several acres of soil on FMC's property have been tainted by chemicals, including trichloroethylene, a suspected cancer-causing substance. Epley said most of the wastes were buried before FMC acquired the site in 1968, although he said there was additional disposal for several years after that.

He said FMC's cleanup plan involves several steps:

- More than a dozen large barrels of chemical wastes buried at the site would be hauled to an approved hazardous-waste landfill in another state (Minnesota does not have such a facility).

- FMC would excavate a large, box-shaped "containment area" on its property. That would be done where there is a thick layer of underground clay. The box would be lined with plastic and at least 6 feet of clay.

Waste continued on page 6A

- About 31,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil would be hauled into the box and covered with a layer of clay.

- Treatment equipment would be installed alongside the box. The soil would gradually be treated to reduce the toxicity of the chemicals and, after that, the vaporized residue would be emitted into the atmosphere.

"We would be containing all of the contaminated soil on our own property in a secure way," said Epley. "Over a period of time, the contaminants would be diminished by this treatment process."

He said it's unclear how much time would be needed to treat all of the soil, although it could be as much as 30 years. He said construction of the containment box and the treatment equipment would cost about \$2 million.

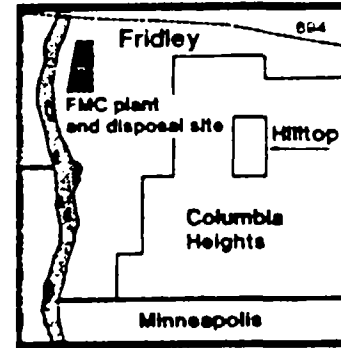
Epley said FMC is committed to more studies in Fridley to determine

the extent to which chemicals may have contaminated ground water. He said FMC already has spent more than \$500,000 on ground-water and soil studies.

Epley said that, all told, FMC would face a bill of \$6 million for the cleanup, studies and long-term maintenance of its containment and treatment system. He said the company is "agreeable to some degree" to reimburse state agencies for costs they have incurred investigating the Fridley site.

Gary Pulford, an MPCA official, said yesterday that FMC's proposed cleanup plan is "a partial solution to the problem."

"We haven't yet decided whether it is acceptable," he said. "Any agreement between the MPCA, the Environmental Protection Agency and FMC will have to incorporate an agreement for (the company) to further investigate whether the area's ground water is contaminated and, if it is, what remedial action is needed



to contend with that."

Pulford stressed that the MPCA citizens' board would have to approve such an agreement, and that the agency will try to recover from FMC the money spent by the state on the matter. He also praised FMC for proposing a cleanup plan and for cooperating with the state in investigating the burial site in Fridley.

The Environmental Protection Agency says that site is the worst of the nation's 418 most dangerous hazardous-waste dumps. It was so rated because, among other things, it is about a half-mile from where Minneapolis draws its drinking water from the Mississippi River.

The MPCA has disputed that assertion, saying there are worse dumps in Minnesota. It has said that, though there is no evidence that chemicals from the FMC site have entered the river, it was given its rating by federal officials because of its potential threat to drinking water.

FMC will explain its plan to the public at meetings from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at the Fridley City Hall, 6431 University Ave. NE.

Fridley site cleanup looks near

By Charles Laszewski
Staff Writer

P. Press
5/28/83

FMC Corp.'s Fridley plant, rated the worst hazardous waste site in the nation, may soon be cleaned up, according to FMC officials and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

After two years of searching for safe ways to store tons of contaminated soil, FMC officials said Friday they have developed a method that should meet PCA standards.

FMC has proposed digging a clay-lined vault — just a few hundred yards away from the existing problem area — where about 31,000 cubic yards of soil will be dumped, said Tom Epley, vice president and general manager of the Northern Ordnance Division of FMC Corp.

If PCA approves, the vault could be completed this summer on the south side of the company's 11-acre site, Epley said.

"It's on a fast track and a lot of folks are working on it because people are concerned," said Jay Heffern, deputy executive director of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. "We're reviewing the technical merits. Our concern is whether it will work."

Heffern said FMC officials presented the plan about nine days ago. Though the plan formally has not been approved, the PCA board may take action at its June 7 meeting.

The site was used by FMC Corp. and its predecessor, Northern Pump Co., as a dump for industrial solvents, paint sludge and other wastes over a 20-year period ending in 1969.

Leaking chemicals have contaminated portions of

See Fridley, Page 4A

Fridley: Clay tanks would hold wastes

Continued from Page 1A

the Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer formation below the site.

Trace amounts of the industrial solvent trichloroethylene have been detected in a Fridley municipal well and in the Mississippi River at the point where Minneapolis draws its drinking water supply. The water intake station is located one-quarter mile downstream from the waste site.

Epley said the plan should eliminate the contamination. Epley said the company's confidence in the engineering is reflected in the fact that the company is bypassing a lengthy permit process that would relieve them of any liability should the plan fail.

"We're very confident this is a good engineering solution," he said. "We were challenged by the MPCA to make sure it is a good solution."

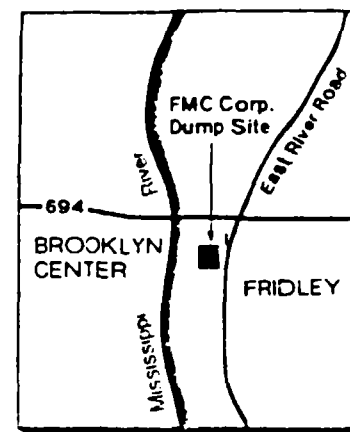
However, agency officials said

FMC Corp.'s speed is due in large part to the recently passed state superfund bill, which allows the company to temporarily skip some of the time-consuming permit process. That should save the company money, according to the officials.

The vault will be dug in a field that had been marked for possible company expansion, Epley said. The hole will have a clay bottom and sides 6 to 10 feet thick. A liner will be put inside of that, then the contaminated soil, more liner and a clay top, Epley said.

A treatment center will be installed within the contaminated soil and the mess could be decontaminated within 10 years, Epley said.

"It's hard to predict how long it will take to effectively eliminate it from the soil," he said. "Maybe five to 10 years. That's a guess."



PCA officials agree with that estimate. And Heffern noted that it's not a new idea.

Epley said the cleanup will cost the company more than \$6 million. Construction and filling of the vault will amount to about \$1.5 million.

FMC will hold public hearings on the plan Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights at the Fridley City Hall, 6431 University Ave. N.E., from 6 to 9 p.m.

SECURITY

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Beth Ruyak

The toxic waste dump labeled the most dangerous in the country is now in its beginning stages of cleanup. The site is the FMC Corporation near Fridley, its a company that makes military material. Debbie Enbloom has an update on the cleanup process.

Enbloom

The building of a containment area for toxic waste is underway at the FMC Corporation. There are some 32,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil just south of the company, soil contaminated with trichlorethylene a cancer causing solvent that Northern Pump Company began dumping in the 1940s, Northern Pump moved and FMC Corporation continued dumping waste. They quit in the late 60s when questions about environmental safety arose.

Jim Epley

We have worked with the MPCA and the EPA for the last several years after this site became know in order to try to understand what the site was and what was contained within it and to determine what kind of solutions would be appropriate for it.

Enbloom

The plan is to build a huge containment vault with clay walls 10 feet thick lined with plastic, a place to hold the contaminated soil. A treatment facility will go inside the vault so in about 10 years the soil will return to its normal or at least environmental safe state.

Epley

The total cost of the process that we are underway with right now will be about 6 million dollars, that includes the work that has been done to date and the work that is going to be done. Right now which is 1.5 to 2 million dollars and it includes the on going costs of managing this treatment.

Enbloom

The actual construction of the containment cell will be complete

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about 45 days but FMC Corporation cant begin to put any contaminated soil into the site until a formal agreement is reached with the Pollution Control Agency and the Environmental Protection Agency. Officials from the PCA says their board will meet June 7th to work out an agreement and they dont expect any problems. But since Northern Pump Company was responsbile for most of the waste disposal they are also involved in figuring out financial responsibility. If negotiations go smoothly the hazardous waste could be contained this summer. The company is holding public meetings this Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights at the Fridley city hall from 6 to 9 oclock for anyone who would like to find out further information also how the FMC Corporation is handling the clean up operation. Debbie Enbloom channel 9 news Fridley.

Waste site cleanup plan in Fridley is stalled by possibility of 2nd dump

By Dean Rebuffoni
Staff Writer

Tribune
6/4/83

The FMC Corporation's plan to spend \$6 million on cleaning up its hazardous-waste dump in Fridley has been derailed, at least temporarily, by the discovery of what could be another, adjacent dump.

At least four barrels were found buried this week on a site that FMC sold several years ago to the Burlington Northern railroad. FMC, which makes munitions, said Friday that it hopes to determine early next week what is in the barrels, where they came from and whether they are part of a larger dump.

The discovery of the barrels was reported yesterday to officials who had hoped to quickly begin cleaning up what has been called the nation's most dangerous waste dump.

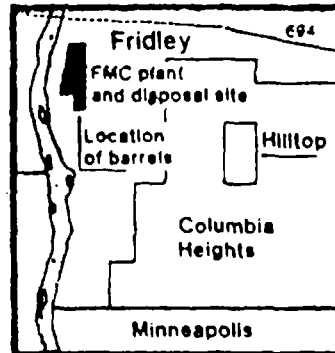
"I don't want to exaggerate, but it seems that every time you punch a hole in one of these hazardous-waste sites, you find a little more waste," said Sandra Gardebring, executive director of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

She approved FMC's cleanup plan yesterday morning, and had planned to ask the MPCA citizens' board to give its final approval Tuesday. Upon learning yesterday afternoon about the barrels, she postponed action until the barrels were investigated.

"We'll know more about the barrels and have a firm handle on the size of the disposal area sometime early next week," said Rick Shepherd, an FMC consultant. "We don't know if they contain liquids or solvents. For all I know they might be empty."

FMC proposes to spend \$6 million to clean up a dump on company property near its Northern Ordnance Division plant at 4800 E. River Rd. At least several acres of soil there have been contaminated by chemicals, including trichloroethylene, a suspected cancer-causing substance. FMC says most of the wastes were buried before it acquired the site in 1964, although it concedes there was additional disposal after that.

The MPCA first learned of the dump in 1980, when it received a tip on its hazardous-waste "hotline" about chemicals buried there. Since then, it has discovered hazardous wastes



on an adjacent site occupied by a U.S. Navy ordnance plant and in a nearby well owned by Kurt Manufacturing Co.

FMC's cleanup plan calls for the excavation of a large, box-shaped "vault" on its property. The vault would be within an area of thick clay, and it would be lined with plastic and capped.

Contaminated soil would be hauled into the vault and treated to reduce its toxicity. Over a long period, perhaps as much as 30 years, the contaminants would be vaporized before being emitted into the atmosphere.

FMC has said that the containment vault could be ready next month. It said construction of the vault and treatment equipment would cost about \$2 million.

It said the total cleanup cost of \$6 million includes its past expenditures on ground-water and soil studies, similar future programs and long-term maintenance of its containment and treatment system.

The plan must be approved by the MPCA and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which says the site is the worst of the nation's known waste dumps. The MPCA disputes that, saying there are worse dumps in Minnesota.

Much of the concern about the Fridley site stems from its location about a half-mile from where Minneapolis draws its drinking water from the Mississippi River. State officials have stressed that there is no evidence that trichloroethylene or other chemicals have entered the river from the site.

-1200 Burlington FMC 6-83

CLIENT PCA
SCRIPT G 822

STATION KSTP AM
TIME 5:05 PM

DATE 6/6/83
LENGTH :54

CLIENT PCA
SCRIPT B 8365

STATION KSTP AM
TIME 6:00 PM

DATE 6/6/83
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Michelle Lee The FMC Plant in Fridley is poised and ready to begin a \$6,000,000 cleanup of the toxic dumpsite on its property. The corporation hopes to receive approval of its cleanup plan from the state Pollution Control Agency this week. There was some concern last week that the problem could be bigger when 6 more barrels were discovered on some nearby property. FMC Vice President Tom Eppley says some of the barrels contained liquid, but the others were old discarded barrels:

Eppley We have done over the weekend to make 100% sure we explored this entire last area that hadn't been totally explored before. We dug trenches over 25 feet and were virtually...totally sure that there's no other barrels on the property.

Lee Several acres of soil on FMC's property have been tainted by chemicals including one that's a suspected cancer-causing substance.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has moved a step closer to cleaning up some of the state's sixty-one hazardous waste sites. This afternoon, in fact, officials of the Pollution Control Agency released a list of sixteen sites that will be eligible for state and federal superfund money. Topping that list are the Reilly Tar and Chemical site in St. Louis Park and also the New Brighton Arrow Hills site. Over seventeen million dollars will be spent on the statewide cleanup and PCA officials are saying that their top priority will be to provide safe drinking water for those areas which are now going without safe drinking water.

H. W. Mm.

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5

FMC - Fridley

FMC asks quick OK on cleanup

By the Associated Press P. Press 4/1/83

The FMC Corp. has asked the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the federal Environmental Protection Agency to expedite approval of its plans to clean up a hazardous waste disposal site in Fridley.

The site tops the EPA's national priority list for areas which must be cleaned up. Industrial and hazardous wastes dumped at the site from the 1940s through 1969 are blamed by federal and state officials for contaminating Minneapolis drinking water supplies.

Sandra Gardebring, executive director of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, said Monday that the company wants approval from her agency and the federal Environmental Protection Agency for a containment facility in which it plans to treat contaminated soils. Construction of the facility was started in May.

FMC is eager to clean up the site this month because of personal liability provisions in the state's "superfund" law which take effect July 1, Gardebring said.

The Pollution Control Agency board was scheduled to view work at the site today and tentatively is scheduled to make a decision on Friday.

Cont.

State and U.S. approve \$6 million

By Dean Rebuffoni
Staff Writer

FMC Corp.'s plan to spend \$6 million to clean up chemical wastes buried near its ordnance plant in Fridley was unanimously approved Wednesday by the citizens' board of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

It also was approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which says the burial site is the nation's most dangerous hazardous waste dump. Approval by the two agencies means that FMC can begin treating up to 58,000 cubic yards of soil this summer to remove contaminants, including trichloroethylene, a suspected cancer-causing chemical.

It will be the first such action under Minnesota's new "superfund" law, but will not require state or federal funds. FMC will pay for the entire project, and will be responsible for the cost of protecting public health and the environment from any harm

that might stem from its wastes.

The munitions manufacturer will pay the MPCA \$74,000 and the EPA \$10,000, money they have spent investigating the Fridley site. The company also is required to annually reimburse the MPCA up to \$20,000, and the EPA up to \$5,000, for their future monitoring of the area's ground water. The money collected by the state and federal governments will go into their respective superfunds to help clean up other hazardous waste dumps.

"FMC assumes all risks, financial or otherwise, in construction of this facility," said Jay Heffern, MPCA deputy executive director. "This plan illustrates the ability of corporations and government to work together to address the problem of hazardous waste sites. It's an auspicious beginning of the implementation of the state superfund."

Heffern led a team of MPCA staff members who, along with EPA attorneys, negotiated the cleanup pro-

gram with FMC.

The key feature of that program is a huge containment vault that workers have begun excavating on FMC property just south of its Northern Ordnance Division plant at 4800 E. River Rd. It is being dug in an area of thick clay that FMC says will prevent wastes from seeping into ground water. As an added precaution, the interior of the vault will be lined with plastic.

Contaminated soil will be hauled into the vault and, within it, forced by air through synthetic filters designed to neutralize the toxicity of the chemicals. The air will gradually be emitted into the atmosphere, a process that FMC and the agencies said will not threaten health or the environment.

The filters themselves will, in effect, become hazardous wastes. FMC said they will be replaced periodically and the old filters hauled to approved disposal sites in other states. Minnesota does not have such a site.

FMC cleanup plan

FMC's plan ran into a temporary snag last week after the discovery of several barrels buried on an adjacent site, which FMC said several years ago to the Burlington Northern railroad.

That obstacle was overcome yesterday when, as part of its agreement with environmental officials, FMC agreed to remove the barrels and to excavate soil from the adjacent site and treat it in the containment vault. That will force the company to enlarge the size of the vault, which originally was designed to contain 31,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil.

Although the MPCA board unanimously approved FMC's cleanup plan, several board members expressed concerns about the containment vault. They pointed out that it will become a hazardous waste site and must be monitored for decades.

"If this is the nation's No. 1 problem, then it's really scary to deal with it," said Lois West, a board member

from Albert Lea. But she and other members said the plan appears to be a safe and long-term solution to the waste problem.

U.S. Rep. Gerry Sikorski, whose Sixth District includes Fridley, said yesterday that he was pleased with the agreement. The Democratic congressman has been sharply critical of the EPA for its past handling of hazardous waste problems.

Fridley site cleanup plan OK'd

By Allen Short
Staff Writer

A plan by FMC Corp. to spend \$6 million over the next 30 years to clean up chemical contamination at the nation's most dangerous hazardous waste dump was approved Wednesday by federal and state environmental officials.

The consent order requiring FMC to remove buried chemical wastes and to treat thousands of tons of contaminated soil at the Fridley dump site was signed by representatives of the Chicago-based company, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

The site was used by FMC and the previous owner, Northern Pump Co., as a dump and incineration site for industrial solvents, paint sludge and other wastes between 1945 and 1969. It now is occupied by Northern Ordnance, a division of FMC that manufactures missile launchers and gun mounts for the U.S. Navy, and by Burlington Northern Railroad.

EPA officials say the site is the worst of the nation's 418 most dangerous waste dumps because it is only a quarter-mile upstream from where Minneapolis draws drinking water from the Mississippi River.

Several wells on the site have been closed because of contamination by organic chemicals, including trichloroethylene, a widely used industrial solvent and suspected cancer-causing substance. Trace amounts of the chemical also have been found in the Minneapolis water supply.

Although the PCA and EPA are allowed by state and federal laws to seek civil fines from operators of hazardous waste dumps, none were sought in the agreement signed Wednesday.

However, the company agreed to pay the PCA \$74,000 and the EPA \$10,000 to reimburse the agencies for site investigations conducted by agency staff members during past two years. The company also will pay the agencies for future costs in administering the cleanup plan.

"I believe this is a good order," Jay Heffern, deputy executive director of the PCA, told members of the agency board. "This is an auspicious beginning to the implementation of the state superfund bill."

Although PCA officials disagree with their EPA counterparts on whether the Fridley site is actually the nation's worst waste dump, the decontamination plan was hailed by both agencies as an example of EPA's new "fast-track" policy of expediting hazardous waste cleanups.

The EPA's performance record under the \$1.6 billion federal superfund law has been widely criticized in Washington, where it contributed earlier this year to the resignation of several top agency officials, including that of administrator Anne Burford.

One of the EPA's chief congressional critics, Rep. Gerry Sikorski, D-Minn., offered praise for the cleanup plan shortly after it was signed.

"The EPA has demonstrated its proper role by working with FMC to aggressively seek a solution rather than obstruct the process of hazardous waste cleanup," said Sikorski, whose district includes the Fridley waste site.

PCA board members, in turn, lauded the company and the agency staff for producing a cleanup plan that won't saddle taxpayers with the bill, which could amount to \$6 million.

Study says blood lead levels drop drastically

Associated Press

Boston, Mass.

The amount of poisonous lead in people's blood fell dramatically during the late 1970s, probably because of declining use of leaded gasoline, a federal study concludes.

High levels of lead in the body are associated with learning problems and low intelligence, and some researchers fear that lesser amounts may also be dangerous.

The survey shows that average blood lead levels across the United States dropped about 37 percent between 1976 and 1980. The decline was so sharp that the researchers at first feared they had made a mistake.

Changes in the amount of two other possible sources of the substance — lead-based paint and lead-tainted food — could not account for so great a drop, the researchers said. They concluded that "the most likely explanation for the fall in blood lead levels is a reduction in the lead content of gasoline during this period."

About 90 percent of all the lead in the air comes from gasoline, they noted. During the four-year period, the total amount of lead used in gasoline production decreased about 55 percent.

The study was directed by Dr. Joseph Annest of the National Center for Health Statistics in Hyattsville, Md. It was published in today's issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

The study, called the second National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, sampled the blood of 27,801 people living in 64 areas across the nation.

Blood lead levels fell the most — 42 percent — among white children age 5 and younger. The decline of 31 percent among blacks of all ages was the smallest of all the groups checked.

The level of lead in the blood of an average U.S. resident fell from 14.6 micrograms per deciliter in February 1976 to 9.2 micrograms in February 1980. A microgram is one-millionth of a gram.

According to standards set by the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, people have undue levels of lead if concentrates exceed 30 micrograms.

Last September, researchers using figures gathered during the same survey concluded that in 1978, 4 percent of all youngsters age 5 and under had elevated levels of lead in their blood. But levels were much higher for blacks than for whites, even when the two races lived in similar poor city neighborhoods.

Manufacturers were required to build cars beginning with 1975 models that burned unleaded gasoline.

Joel Schwartz, an analyst for the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, said 27 percent of the gasoline burned in 1977 was unleaded, compared with 47 percent in 1980.

During this period, he said, many older cars that used leaded fuel were junked, and federal regulations also reduced the amount of lead that could be used in leaded gasoline.

Waste site cleanup accord

By Joann Linsley
Staff Writer

In an agreement hailed as a model of the ability of industry and government to negotiate, state and federal officials and the FMC Corp. Wednesday completed a \$6 million cleanup agreement for the company's Northern Ordnance Division in Fridley.

The site leads the federal government's list of hazardous waste sites nominated for action under the superfund program.

The agreement, negotiated over an approximately nine-month period, will preserve the state's authority to protect the public health while reimbursing it for expenses incurred in cleaning up the site, where solvents, sludges and plating wastes were dumped from the 1940s to 1979.

The suspected cancer-causing degreaser trichloroethylene (TCE) has been found in one Fridley municipal well, and in trace amounts in the Minneapolis drinking water intake a fourth of a mile from the

site.

It was that potential threat to drinking water which prompted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to rank the site last summer as the worst in the country. The ranking was part of the EPA's priority listing under the superfund program, a fund created from taxes on industry for cleanup of toxic waste sites nationwide.

The EPA's ranking forced the company to the negotiating table last September, and the firm announced in late May that it would

reached

construct a clay-lined vault to hold and treat contaminated soils.

Company officials say the vault could be completed this summer.

Under the agreement, FMC will spend \$6 million for the facility, and will pay the PCA \$74,000 for time and expenses involved in the agency's monitoring of the site. The company also will pay the EPA \$10,000 for its site investigations and will reimburse both agencies for future costs incurred in

Please see Fridley/2C

Fridley

Continued from Page 1C
site investigations

PCA Deputy Director Jay Hef-
forn said that while the company
has agreed to pay virtually all ex-
penses for cleanup, the agreement
preserves the agency's right to halt

The agency has been hampered
in many of its cleanup efforts by a
lack of cooperation by companies
involved. Ten months after it re-
leased a list of 16 sites in Minne-
sota where state funds may have to
be spent because responsible par-
ties have balked or delayed.

pany's original agreement because
of more contaminated soils dis-
covered last week at an off-site
which FMC sold to Burlington
Northern Railroad. The company
originally estimated that there
were 31,000 cubic yards of waste.

proved some changes in the com-

figures now stand at about 58,000 cubic yards.

6-16-83

H. W. Mm.
Fridley

Construction starts on FMC waste vault

Construction of a hazardous waste containment vault on property owned by FMC Corp. in Fridley began last week. The \$2 million vault is designed to store and treat 31,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil on the FMC site.

According to FMC officials, the contaminated soil will be transferred to the vault next week.

6/16/83

FMC Corp 6-24-83

Company Will Clean Up, No. 1 Toxic Waste Dump

THE NEW YORK TIMES, THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 1983

FRIDLEY, Minn., June 8 — The FMC Corporation plans to spend \$6 million to clean up a site here that the Federal Environmental Protection Agency says is the nation's most dangerous hazardous waste dump.

The Federal agency and Minnesota environmental officials today approved the cleanup, which will entail treating up to 58,000 cubic yards of soil to remove chemical contaminants, including trichloroethylene, a suspected carcinogen. The soil will be excavated from a flat, weedy tract of several acres near the company's munitions manufacturing plant in Fridley, a community of 31,000 people just north of Minneapolis on the Mississippi River.

Chemical wastes were buried for more than two decades at the site. Last December the Federal agency put the site at the top of a "national priority list" of the 418 most dangerous hazardous waste sites around the country to be dealt with under the agency's fund for toxic dump sites.

But the cleanup plan approved today will not require the use of Federal or state money. FMC will finance the entire program and will be responsible for the cost of protecting the public health and the environment from any harm that might stem from chemical wastes buried at the site. The company will also reimburse the Federal and state governments for past and future expenses in investigating the site and monitoring groundwater.

Legislature Acted First

The company proposed its cleanup plan two weeks ago, a month after the Minnesota Legislature approved a state cleanup fund law similar to its the Federal law. It places new restrictions on companies that generate hazardous chemical wastes and holds them liable for personal injuries and property damage.

A company official acknowledged in an interview that passage of the state law was a factor in the company's decision to act on its own.

Rusty Brashers, a spokesman for the Federal environmental agency in Washington, said by phone, "To my knowledge, and without searching the files, this is the first time a company has agreed to assume all such costs."

The Federal agency gave the site its

urgent rating largely because it is half a mile from the spot where Minneapolis draws its drinking water from the Mississippi. Minnesota environmental officials have disputed the rating, saying there are at least two worse dumps in the state.

State health officials also stress that although there are extremely small traces of trichloroethylene, or TCE, in the water used by Minneapolis, the levels are far below the levels allowed Federal drinking water standards.

Tip Received in 1980

The Minnesota Pollution Agency first learned of the Fridley site in 1980 when it received a tip through a telephone number set up to gather information about hazardous dumps. Officials then began investigating the site and learned that large amounts of solvents and chemical degreasers were buried there.

Most of the waste burial, which began in the early 1940's, was near the company's Northern Ordnance Division plant, which employs more than 4,000 people to make guided missile launchers and automated gun mounts for the Navy.

Thomas Epley, a company vice president, said most of the wastes were buried there before FMC acquired the site from the Northern Pump Company in 1954, although he said disposal continued until 1980.

Investigators have found soil contaminated by several chemical wastes, although TCE is by far the most common. Some small plots of soil contain up to 200,000 parts per million of TCE, or 20 percent. Most of the several acres of contaminated soil show concentrations of TCE far below that level.

Big Vault to Be Dug

The key component of the cleanup is the excavation of a large vault able to hold up to 58,000 cubic yards of soil. FMC is to put into the vault all soil contaminated with more than 1 part per million of TCE.

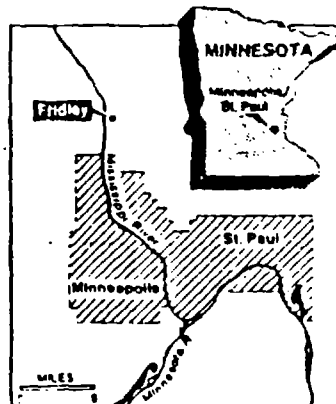
Work has already begun on the vault and company officials expect it will be ready next month. It is being dug in an area where there is a thick layer of underground clay, and the vault will be lined and capped with plastic and at least six feet of low-permeability clay.

Treatment equipment, including synthetic filters, will be installed beside and in the vault. The soil will gradually be treated to reduce its toxicity and after that the vaporized residue will be emitted into the atmosphere.

Mr. Epley said it was unclear how long would be needed to treat all the soil, although it could be as long as 15 years or more. He said construction of the vault and the treatment equipment would cost \$2 million.

FMC is committed to more studies to determine if there is contamination of the groundwater.

Mr. Epley said that the company would pay a total of \$6 million for the cleanup, environmental studies and long-term maintenance of the vault and treatment system. FMC also agreed to reimburse the Minnesota Pollution Agency \$74,000 and the E.P.A. \$10,000 for investigating the site. In addition, FMC is to pay the state agency up to \$20,000 annually and the E.P.A. up to \$5,000 for future groundwater studies.



The New York Times / June 9, 1983

E.P.A. calls the Fridley waste dump the nation's most dangerous.

FMC 7-6-83
sound S clips

18

CLIENT PCA STATION KSTP TV DATE 7/2/83
SCRIPT C 845 TIME 6:00 PM. LENGTH :28

Cla Fleur

And in Fridley the first phase of the cleanup is scheduled to be completed this weekend at the FMC Corporation, that hazardous waste dump site is considered by the EPA the most dangerous in the nation and yesterday the company buried some 43,000 cubic yards of heavily contaminated soil. Today FMC literally capped the burial by covering that dirt with a 6 foot layer of clay. Later the clay will be covered with a impermeable fabric, top soil and grass seed. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency says that buried soil will continue to be purified over the next 10 years.

FOR INFORMATION CALL (612) 646-1036

sound S clips

17

CLIENT PCA STATION WTCN TV DATE 7/2/83
SCRIPT E 628 TIME 10:00 P.M. LENGTH :21

Joan Steffens

Stage one of the cleanup should be completed this 4th of July weekend at FMC in Fridley. If you remember about a month ago FMC started the 6 million dollar cleanup of what had been labeled the worst hazardous waste dump site in the country. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency says that 11 acres of contaminated soil has been placed in a clay lined vault and that should be capped off this weekend. The vault will be covered with 6 feet of clay and then a layer of top soil

FOR INFORMATION CALL (612) 646-1036

FMC 7-6-83
sound  clips

CLIENT PCA
SCRIPT B 120
STATION WCCO TV
TIME 6:00 P.M.
DATE 7/2/83
LENGTH :38

Mike
Walcher

Recently the site of the FMC plant in Fridley was designated as Americas most dangerous hazardous waste dump. Industrial solvents had contaminated the ground just a quarter mile from the intake for the city of Minneapolis drinking water supply. The company had been cleaning up that mess and this weekend will complete phase one of the operation, that is digging up 43,000 cubic yards of tainted dirt which had been deposited in a clay lined pit sealed off from the ground water supply. Also this weekend a clay cap will be put over that waste, over the next 30 years the waste should be purified by a process that has been approved by the State Pollution Control Agency.

Ruth Kozlak

Newton

Kozlak

sound  clips

CLIENT PCA
SCRIPT A 464
STATION WCCO AM
TIME 5:00 P.M.
DATE 7/2/83
LENGTH 1:10

Phas one of a clean up of toxic waste at the FMC Corporation in Fridley has been completed. That site has been labeled the worst in the nation by the Environmental Protection Agency. July 1st was the deadline for the initial cleanup which included burying more than 40,000 cubic yards of chemically contaminated soil in a clay lined vault at the 11 acre site. Dale Newton of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency says the initial cleanup was designed to remove the sources of ground water contamination, the next phase will focus on the water itself. The followups to this will be further study of the ground water and development of plans to remove the contamination that is already in the water. Total cost of the cleanup, 6 million dollars. Governor Perpich plans to tour the clean up area on Tuesday and will talk with reporters afterwards.

H 10 774

FMC

7-5-83

Chemical-laden soil buried in Fridley

By Allen Short
Staff Writer

P. Press

7/3/83

The FMC Corp. has completed burying about 43,000 cubic yards of chemical-laden soil at a Fridley site that federal officials consider the nation's most dangerous hazardous waste dump.

The soil, heavily contaminated by toxic industrial solvents dumped at the 11-acre site years ago, was placed last week in a clay-lined vault where it will be aerated and purified over the next five to 30 years, state officials said Friday.

A series of nine tunnels will withdraw contaminated air from inside the vault, said PCA hydrologist Robert Karls. The air will pass through activated charcoal filters to cleanse it of hazardous chemicals. Most of the contaminants eventually will be removed from the soil through the treatment process, PCA officials said.

FMC officials hope to cap the vault this weekend by covering it

with a 6-foot layer of clay. Later this month, Karls said, an impermeable synthetic fabric will be placed on top of the clay cap and the vault area will be graded, covered with topsoil and sown with grass seed.

FMC has agreed to spend up to \$6 million to decontaminate the Fridley site and determine the direction and extent of groundwater contamination. Construction of the containment vault and installation of equipment to clean the tainted soil is expected to cost the company up to \$2 million.

The site was used by FMC and the previous owner, Northern Pump Co., as a dump and incineration site for industrial solvents, paint sludge and other wastes between 1945 and 1969. It now is occupied by Northern Ordnance, a division of FMC that manufactures military hardware, and by Burlington Northern Railroad.

FMC's cleanup plan was approved last month by federal and

state environmental officials. The company agreed to pay the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency \$74,000 and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \$10,000 for site investigations conducted by state and federal officials during the past two years.

The consent order signed by FMC also requires the company to suggest ways to prevent contaminants from spreading further within the regional groundwater supply, which empties into the Mississippi River.

The company also will be required to recover and properly dispose of more than a dozen large barrels of chemical wastes buried at the site. Minnesota has no licensed hazardous waste disposal sites, so the wastes will have to be shipped out of state.

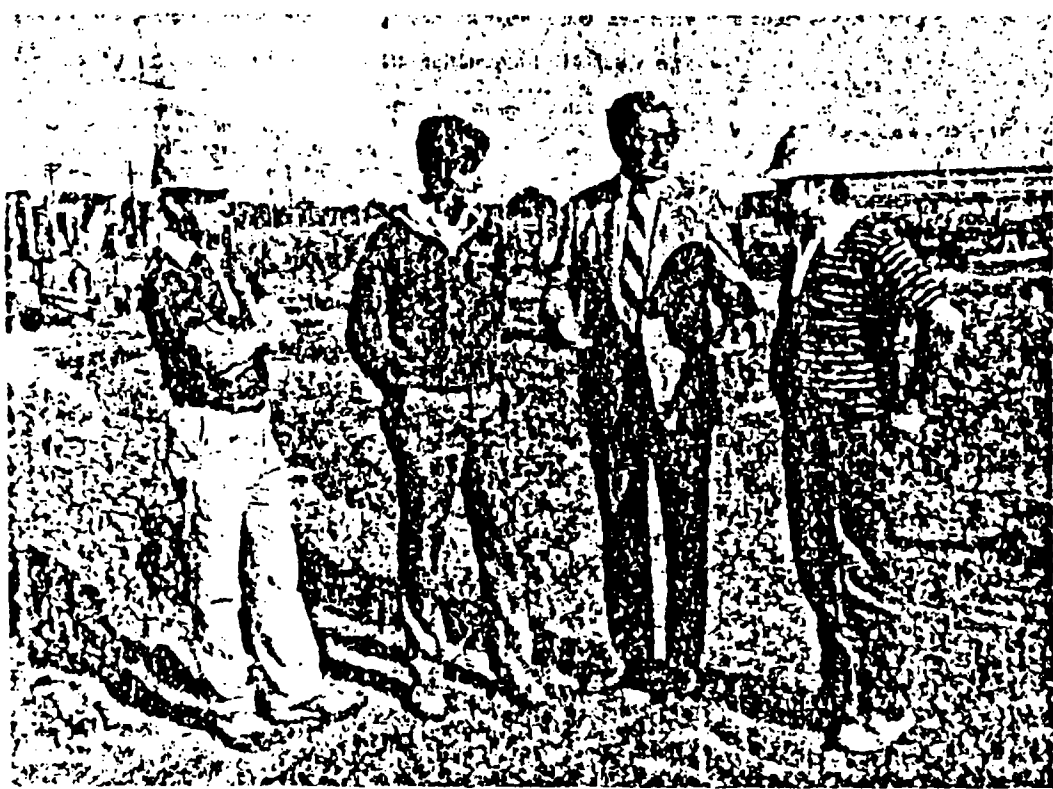
EPA officials say the Fridley site is the worst of the nation's 418 most dangerous waste dumps be-

cause it is only a quarter-mile upstream from where Minneapolis draws drinking water from the Mississippi.

Several wells on the site have been closed because of contamination by organic chemicals, including trichloroethylene, a widely used industrial solvent and suspected carcinogen. Trace amounts of the chemical have been found in the Minneapolis water supply.

State officials disagree with the EPA's ranking of the Fridley site as the worst in the nation. PCA investigators say an abandoned pole-treating plant in St. Louis Park and the Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant in Arden Hills — have resulted in groundwater contamination that has affected thousands of residents in several Twin Cities suburbs, including New Brighton, Arden Hills, Shoreview and St. Anthony.

FMC 7683



Staff Photos by Steve Schluter

Gov. Rudy Perpich toured the FMC Corp. plant Tuesday in Fridley with clean-up directors Paul Thompson, left, Bruce Montleth and William Modaffara.

TP, bme 7/6/83



Bulldozers sealed contaminated soil into a 30-foot deep "containment area" lined with clay and plastic.

Perpich praises FMC Corp. for waste clean-up

Gov. Rudy Perpich toured the FMC Corp. plant Tuesday in Fridley and said the company was "a good corporate citizen" for cleaning up one of the nation's worst toxic waste dumps.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had rated the FMC plant potentially the worst of the nation's 418 dangerous hazardous waste sites. The site was used as a dumping ground from the early 1940s until 1969, when FMC closed it.

"FMC has shown itself to be a good corporate citizen by responding to the environmental problems at this site and working diligently with the (Minnesota) Pollution Control Agency to find solutions," Perpich said.

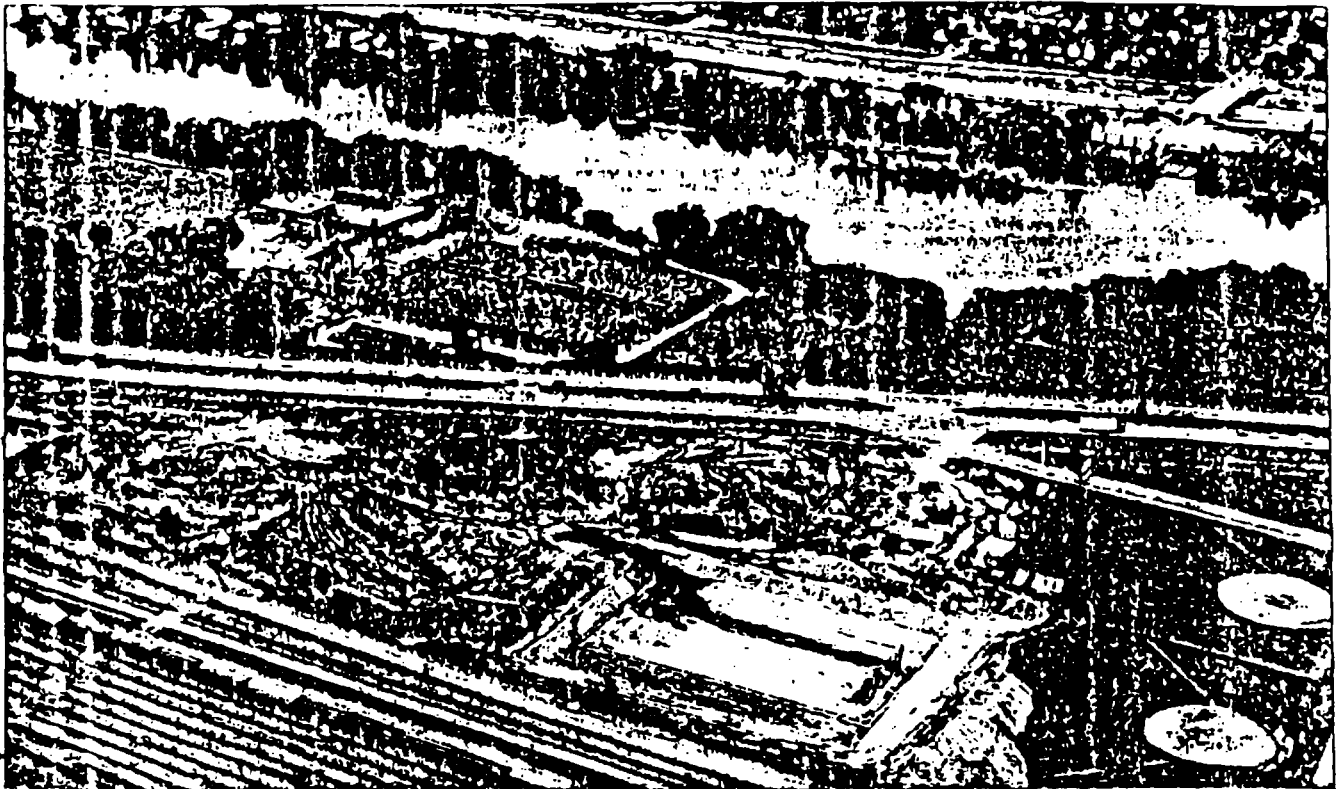
The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency approved a \$6 million company plan June 8 for cleaning up the contaminated soil. FMC agreed to excavate up to 58,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil and place it in a large box-shaped containment area lined with clay and plastic.

Sports

Tekine 7/7/83

7-7-83

10.



Staff Photo by Mike Zerby

Dirt excavated from the hazardous waste storage pit at FMC Corp. encroached on left field of one of two softball diamonds used by company teams.

Game called on account of hazardous waste

By Richard Merrybrew
 Staff Writer

Dirt from FMC excavation buries softball field

Fridley
 One morning in early June, Dick Kuyath, a senior contract specialist for FMC Corp. and a part-time company softball player and umpire, glanced out a plant window and discovered that a goodly portion of one of two company softball fields was buried under a heap of dirt.

"We were supposed to have a game that night," Kuyath said recently. "But we had to postpone it because there was this big mound of dirt out there right where left field was."

It was probably the first time in the history of organized softball that league games were canceled because of hazardous wastes.

The problem with the field conditions surfaced in early June when bulldozers began excavating FMC property to build a \$2 million containment vault to store 31,000 cubic yards of hazardous wastes found on company soil. When the tractors plowed up open field south of the plant and east of Ford River Rd., they dumped the dirt on the left-field portion of one of the diamonds used by 16 teams in the FMC "in-

house" softball league. (The company's archery range was also buried and has been moved to another site on FMC property.)

"It must be three stories high," said Darrell (Boss) Winick, the league's director, describing the dirt pile. "It goes from the left field foul line all the way to left center field."

According to Kuyath, the independent caught the ballplayers' dejection.

"We really didn't know about it until we looked out there one morning," he said. "It rained a bit of havoc in the beginning."

With only one diamond playable, the league games had to be postponed and rescheduled. The disruption, however, was brief.

Winick quickly reentered the Fridley and Columbia Heights park and recreation departments and a day later, he had found a field near 2nd St. and 43rd Av. NE in Columbia Heights.

The new diamond is not as convenient as the home site, and it's not as

well developed as the FMC field (there is no outfield fence), but it's a ballpark and, for now, that's good enough for Winick.

"It's pretty close to the plant, about five minutes," Winick said. "Fridley has offered us a site also, but this was a little bit closer. If we'd gone to Fridley, it meant getting on the freeway... and there's quite a backup on that in the late afternoon. It just worked out a little nicer over in Columbia Heights."

According to Kuyath, the players don't seem to mind the short drive. He admits, however, that it's tough playing without an outfield fence.

"It's nice to have a home-run fence," he said. "There's a small fence out in right field at this new field, but it's a fence a guy has around his house. It goes out about from the foul line in right field... and it doesn't go all the way around the outfield. I umpired there yesterday and a guy hit one in there. There happens to be a dog in there, too, and he went after the ball."

Kuyath and Winick are hoping the company's ballplayers won't have to compete with the dog for long

up again, and that would take some time," Winick said. "We'd have to start from scratch. My feeling is that the outfield wouldn't be bad, we just wouldn't have the grass out there."

"But I really don't see any way we can finish playing any more games on that diamond, at least not this year."

"The fences would have to be put



Talks tricks
**Hazardous waste vault
 work going smoothly**

Construction of a \$2 million hazardous waste containment vault on FMC Corp. property in Fridley is going smoothly, according to Bill Warren, a company counsel.

"We're proceeding on schedule," Warren said Tuesday. "We plan to have it finished by the first week in August. We've got the vault itself

contained, and we've got the one clay layer over the top."

The vault, at the southwest corner of FMC property near East River Rd., will store about 50,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil discovered on FMC property several years ago. The vault is now lined with clay and synthetic liners, filled with the contaminated soil

and covered with more clay and synthetic liners. In the next week, sand, topsoil and grass will be added to cover the vault. A treatment system will be installed to treat the soil as it decomposes.

Warren said construction workers are filling in the hole left by the excavation of the contaminated soil.

Charge

■ Continued from Page 1N

"Since the money already is invested, we have no other choice than to pursue it," said Councilwoman Rice' Chestovich. "We'd like to hear from Bannigan and consider what cost is involved."

City Administrator Dewan Barnes said "They borrowed our money without good intentions. I could handle the \$6,400 if I could



North wind

by Jim Nagel

Dispatch
7/20/83

St. Paul's storm overflow treatment charge holds no water with Falcon Heights

In a variation of the David and Goliath story, Falcon Heights might go against St. Paul with a legal slingshot.

Falcon Heights officials are displeased to be among suburbs St. Paul wants to charge for the treatment of overflow storm water. They say they paid their fare in 1957 and now are being charged again.

So, while seven other communities might not challenge a ruling by Ramsey District Judge Harold Schultz that the suburbs pay St. Paul about \$288,000 a year, Falcon Heights feels it has a strong leg to stand on.

How strong? Well, is \$420,000 strong enough?

That's how much Councilman Paul Ciernia calculates Falcon Heights should get back from St. Paul for a 1957 investment of \$88,000, money the city claims it paid to help St. Paul finance the separation of storm and sanitary sewers in return for taking some of the suburb's storm water.

Ciernia used investment interest rates for each of the past 25 years to calculate today's value of the \$88,000 payment.

That charge was determined by St. Paul and included in an ordinance both cities adopted in 1957, when Falcon Heights wanted to construct storm sewers to carry water to Lake Como.

The overflow from Como and three other lakes into St. Paul's combined sewer system formed the basis for the charge to the suburbs for water treatment.

Falcon Heights' share of that charge is about \$6,400.

"Other suburban cities agreed Falcon Heights shouldn't have been included because we already paid our share," said Mayor Willis Warkentien. "The others didn't pay St. Paul previously. We did, but St. Paul never went ahead with the sewer separation."

The council last week asked for a meeting with attorney John Bannigan to discuss possible action against St. Paul.

Please see Charge/2N

have the \$427,000 back to invest," Barnes said.

Bannigan agreed that Falcon Heights may be in a unique position.

"No one ever mentioned to them that they would be exposed (to additional charges) for having their water run into Como, especially for treating that water," Bannigan said. "That's where they feel they've been had. At St. Paul's re-

quest they separated their sewers and got their water over to Como. Now there's no control for the accelerating costs of treating that water."

Incidentally, without the storm water from the suburbs, St. Paul might have only a swamp where Lake Como is. As it is, pumping is required some years to keep the lake level up.

Voluntary Cleanup: Another Option For Generators



Margaret M. Nemec
Editor

Many generators find that battles with EPA, the Justice Dept. and state environmental agencies over cleanup of waste sites are time consuming, expensive, and invariably just put off the in-

evitable cleanup. In most cases, the option results in far greater costs and penalties for generators who are finally forced into action.

There is another way: voluntary cleanup. Two companies, who with the above and other reasons in mind, are committing more than \$12 million for voluntary cleanup of sites which have stored their manufacturing wastes since the 1940s and 1950s.

HAIWAI applauds these companies for their actions. No doubt, federal and state agency pressure was a motivating factor, but the fact remains that these companies are doing something to solve serious problems and are not dragging their feet.

First Stop, Fridley, MN

FMC Corporation's albatross is the Fridley site, located in Fridley, MN, just north of Minneapolis on the Mississippi River, where munitions wastes from its Northern Ordnance Div. plant were buried during the 1940s through the mid-1960s. Large amounts of solvents and chemical degreasers are in the site.

The Fridley/FMC site was originally ranked as the worst in the country on EPA's preliminary National Priorities List, and has since dropped to the number 17 spot thanks to company cleanup efforts.

FMC will treat some 38,000 cubic yards of soil to remove chemical contaminants, primarily trichloroethylene, a suspected carcinogen.

A large vault was constructed last year in an area with a thick layer of underground clay. Contaminated soil was placed in the lined vault together with waste treatment equipment — essentially a methane collection system. The vault was then capped with plastic and a layer of low-permeability clay.

Company spokesmen tell HAIWAI that the system is currently undergoing a six-month calibration phase to ensure its effectiveness. Contaminants which are eventually removed will be placed in secure hazardous waste landfills or incinerated.

As for the cost, \$6 million has been earmarked for cleanup alone. The company has already reimbursed the Minnesota Pollution Agency \$74,000 and EPA \$10,000 for site investigations, and has committed up to \$25,000 annually for future groundwater studies.

3M Efforts

3M, a neighboring corporate giant in St. Paul, MN, joined the bandwagon around the same time as FMC, and will spend \$6 million on cleanup of a cluster of three adjoining waste sites in Oakdale, MN, just east of St. Paul. Wastes stored at these sites include benzene and ethyl benzene.

Interestingly, 3M is not the only generator with wastes at these sites, but decided that it would take a leading role in cleanup.

In addition to its estimated \$6 million cleanup tab, 3M reimbursed federal and state agencies for their investigations, and spent \$1 million on its own initial investigation.

Spokesmen for both companies note that cleanup and groundwater are long-term work propositions.

A Growing Trend?

No doubt other companies across the country are pursuing or are considering similar voluntary action. HAIWAI encourages this trend as it will help defuse many of the country's hazardous waste time bombs. Too, such action may help restore luster to Corporate America's image which, as we all know, has been sullied in recent years over such vexing environmental problems.

MPCA TODAY

NEWSPAPER, RADIO AND TV COVERAGE OF MPCA
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Elaine Zoch - 296-7283

FMC to pump out contaminated ground water

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As part of a \$6.7 million project, the FMC Corp. has agreed to prevent toxic chemicals from entering the Minneapolis water supply by pumping 250 million gallons of contaminated ground water from an aquifer in Fridley.

Traces of chemicals in the shallow aquifer are seeping into the Mississippi River just upstream from where Minneapolis draws its drinking water. The chemicals come from an FMC-owned tract that the federal government formerly called the nation's most dangerous waste dump.

The tract is at FMC's Northern Ordnance Division plant, which makes weapons systems for the Navy.

Under an agreement approved Tuesday by state officials, FMC will pump contaminated ground water from beneath the site, and the water will be treated before being discharged into the Mississippi far downstream from Minneapolis. The project will cost FMC an estimated \$700,000, and could cost more if state officials determine that additional pumping is needed.

That is in addition to the \$6 million that FMC is spending to excavate and treat contaminated soil over the next 30 years in one of the biggest waste cleanup projects in Minnesota. The FMC project is about a half-mile upstream from the point on the Mississippi where water is drawn for use by 550,000 people in Minneapolis and six suburbs that buy treated water from the city.

Under its agreement with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), FMC is required to pump out ground water tainted by toxic chemical wastes, primarily trichloroethylene, a suspected cancer-causing substance. That work is intended to prevent ground water containing harmful levels of that substance from seeping beyond the company's property line and into the Mississippi.

After the tainted water is brought to the surface, it will be discharged into a sanitary sewer that runs to the big metropolitan sewage-treatment plant at Pig's Eye Lake in St. Paul. There the water will be treated before be-

FMC's agreement with the MPCA does not require the company to pump out all contaminated ground water from beneath its property. Rather, it requires the removal of all ground water containing trichloroethylene at concentrations greater than the level considered necessary to protect public health and water quality at the Minneapolis water intake.

FMC also has agreed to pay \$9,578 into the state's hazardous-waste "superfund," which is designed to help clean up worrisome dumps. That money is to reimburse the MPCA for costs it has incurred investigating the FMC site in Fridley. In addition, FMC will reimburse the state fund for future expenses incurred by the MPCA in carrying out the agreement approved yesterday.

But the key feature of the agreement is the removal of contaminated ground water, said David Richfield, the MPCA official overseeing the cleanup project.

"We believe that five years of pumping will result in an adequate clean-up," he said. "That would constitute about 250 million gallons of contaminated water."

Richfield said the state agency will monitor the project, and after two years will annually reassess the need for additional pumping of tainted water from the aquifer, which is 75 to 100 feet deep. Ground water in the

aquifer generally flows westward toward the Mississippi.

The MPCA said tests show that ground water beneath the FMC site

has concentrations of up to 30,000 parts per billion of trichloroethylene. Those levels fall to 150 parts per billion or less in ground water just beyond the FMC property line. The maximum level for that chemical in public water supplies is 5 parts per billion.

Arlen Willrock, an FMC spokesman, said the pumping project will cost an estimated \$700,000. All told, FMC will spend at least \$6.7 million to clean up the Fridley site, which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) cited in 1983 as the nation's most dangerous dump, largely because of its proximity to the Minneapolis water intake. FMC's clean-up work has since prompted the EPA to reclassify the tract, and it now is listed as the 17th most worrisome site on a national list of several

hundred dumps.

In terms of money actually committed to cleanup work, the FMC project is the second largest in Minnesota. Richfield said the biggest such project was in Oakdale, where 3M Co. has spent \$11 million to clean up several dumps.

The bulk of FMC's money was spent excavating and treating 38,600 cubic yards of contaminated soil. It is contained in a large, clay-lined vault that FMC built on its property. Within the vault, soil is forced by air through synthetic filters designed to neutralize the toxicity of the chemicals. The air is gradually emitted into the atmosphere, a process that the MPCA says does not threaten health or the environment.

