

NPL Site Narrative for Baytown Township Ground Water Plume

BAYTOWN TOWNSHIP GROUND WATER PLUME Baytown Township, Minnesota

Conditions at Proposal (October 14, 1992): The Baytown Township Ground Water Plume site is defined by 34 contaminated wells (31 of which provide drinking water) in Baytown Township, Washington County, Minnesota. The county is one of the seven-county metropolitan area surrounding the Twin Cities.

In June 1987, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) sampled wells in the area surrounding the Baytown Dump as part of a State-wide program to determine water quality near solid waste facilities. The results indicated private wells were contaminated with volatile organic compounds such as 1,1,2-trichloroethene (TCE), 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethene (PCE), and cis-1,2-dichloroethene. MDH then issued a well advisory for the Baytown Township area.

The MDH data indicate a plume of TCE-contaminated ground water extends for 3 miles from the main hangar complex at the Lake Elmo Airport. The majority of the plume continues through Baytown Township, involving a 1.5-mile-wide strip extending from Manning Avenue on the west to the St. Croix River. An estimated 10,450 live in the area, which is primarily agricultural and rural-residential.

The highest concentrations of TCE were detected in the vicinity of the main hangar complex at the airport. TCE may have been used in parts cleaning activities in this area. Also, the contaminated wells at the airport have chlorinated solvent concentrations up to an order of magnitude higher than the majority of the contaminated wells located east of the airport, according to tests conducted during 1987-91 by State agencies and the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC), which owns and operates the Lake Elmo Airport. The location of the ground water plume suggests that at least a portion of the TCE may be attributable to a source on or near the airport property. Although some of the TCE contamination may be attributable to past activities at the airport, other sources of TCE and other chlorinated solvents may also exist in the area.

An estimated 26,000 people obtain drinking water from public and private wells within 4 miles of the site.

Status (December 1994): The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and MAC have continued ground water monitoring at the site. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) reportedly completed a health assessment of the site. MPCA has also been conducting a limited Remedial Investigation (RI) on their own.

For more information about the hazardous substances identified in this narrative summary, including general information regarding the effects of exposure to these substances on human health, please see the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) ToxFAQs. ATSDR ToxFAQs can be found on the Internet at [ATSDR - ToxFAQs](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/index.asp) (<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/index.asp>) or by telephone at 1-888-42-ATSDR or 1-888-422-8737.