



Reilly Tar & Chemical Corp. (St. Louis Park) Timeline (1917-1985)

1917

Republic Creosoting Co. begins refining coal tar and treating wood with creosote at the site. Up to 6,000 gallons/week of wastewater was discharged to wetland south of the site. *[Republic bought coal tar from gas plants throughout Minnesota, and it was refined on the site. It was a subsidiary of Reilly Industries, which is now Vertellus Specialties (Vertellus).]*

1960s – 1970s

The city of St. Louis Park and the state plug over a dozen wells that were conduits for pollution to groundwater. Soil contamination found to depths of 45 feet.

1972

Republic Creosoting dismantled and land sold to the city of St. Louis Park.

1978 - 81

The cities of St. Louis Park and Hopkins close seven drinking water wells (SLP4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 15, and H3) in the Prairie du Chien/Jordan aquifer that were contaminated with PAHs.

1980

EPA and the cities of St. Louis Park and Hopkins join the lawsuit against Reilly Tar.

1984

EPA issues cleanup decision requiring construction of a treatment plant at wells SLP 10 & 15.

1932

First St. Louis Park municipal well drilled and abandoned due to taste and odors.

1940s

Oil/water separator installed, but effluent discharge to wetland continued. Contamination found in private wells near the site.

1970

The MPCA files a lawsuit against Reilly Tar & Chemical Corp. (Reilly Tar) for air and surface water pollution.

1973

Stormwater collection system built at the site, including lined pond. [Pond still exists. Water drains eventually to Minnehaha Creek, monitored by the city of St. Louis Park.]

1979

28 wells plugged or reconstructed to prevent spread of contamination.

1983

EPA puts the site on the National Priorities List.

1985

Reilly Tar constructs drinking water treatment plant for the city of St. Louis Park to treat water pumped from wells SLP 10 & 15.



Reilly Tar & Chemical Corp. (St. Louis Park) Timeline (1986-1996)

1986

Reilly Tar signs multi-party Consent Decree with EPA, the state, and the cities. [The city of St. Louis Park agrees to share responsibility for implementation, with initial funding by Reilly Tar.]

1987

The city of St. Louis Park began pumping two additional wells (well W105 in the Ironton/Galesville aquifer to remove contaminated groundwater near the source and well W422 in the Glacial Drift aquifer to help control groundwater flow). [Well W105 in the Ironton/Galesville aquifer operated until 1991 and well W422 until 2000. EPA approved conversion of both to monitoring wells.]

1990s

Redevelopment of nearby off-site properties was managed under MPCA's Voluntary Investigation and Cleanup program. MPCA approves Remedial Action Plans for safe handling and disposal of contaminated soil encountered.

1991

MPCA and EPA establish contaminated material safety requirements for the city of St. Louis Park construction of highway interchange south of the site. [Interchange is Hwy 7/Louisiana Ave.]

1991

The city of St. Louis Park adds treatment for PAHs to drinking water well SLP4.

1995

One additional well constructed and began pumping in northern area of the Glacial Drift aquifer. [This was well W439, which continues in operation today, with discharge to the sanitary sewer.]

1995

EPA and MPCA request the city of St. Louis Park re-evaluate gradient control for the Prairie du Chien/Jordan aquifer to protect drinking water wells.

1986

EPA issues a site-wide cleanup decision with actions to protect drinking water and to control the sources of contamination. Tarry waste was removed from well W23, and then it was turned into a source control well in the Prairie du Chien/Jordan aquifer. Two source control wells were built - W420 in the Glacial Drift aquifer and W421 in the Platteville aquifer.

1986

The city of St. Louis Park completes filling of contaminated wetland south of site with 2-3 feet clean fill (between Walker and Lake St.).

1990

EPA and MPCA issue cleanup decision for the St. Peter aquifer. [Required pumping of well W410 to intercept and contain contaminated groundwater.]

1991

Methodist Hospital stops pumping high volumes from its well, prompting EPA and MPCA concern for potential movement of groundwater contamination.

1992

EPA and MPCA issue a cleanup decision for the northern area of the Glacial Drift aquifer. [Requires continued pumping of well W422 and at least one additional well, to intercept groundwater.]

1995

EPA and MPCA issue cleanup decision for northern area of the Platteville aquifer. [Requires construction of a new pumping well. The cleanup was modified in 1997 to allow use of well W434 for this purpose. This well operated until 2006 when EPA approved shutdown.]

1996

MPCA conducts 1st Five-Year Review with EPA oversight. Recommends continued operation and maintenance of treatment systems and groundwater flow modeling and that EPA and MPCA continue to monitor development at the site. [It also made some other more specific recommendations.]



Reilly Tar & Chemical Corp. (St. Louis Park) Timeline (2000-2014)

2000

EPA and MPCA approve the city of St. Louis Park's feasibility study and plans for additional monitoring and contingency actions for pumping of SLP6 for gradient control in the Prairie du Chien/Jordan aquifer.

2001

Apartment complex constructed south of the site following a Remedial Action Plan approved by MPCA. 8,000 cubic yards soil excavated and treated.

2001

MPCA conducts 2nd Five-Year Review with EPA oversight. Concludes that drinking water is properly treated. Inspection finds exposed debris on the site but no tar substances. Notes the city of St. Louis Park plans for addition of clean fill and new drainage. Recommends continued pumping and monitoring of groundwater, and groundwater modeling to evaluate gradient control.

2004

"Block 7" property office building constructed following EPA and MPCA approval of construction plan. Passive gas venting system required and installed to minimize potential for vapor intrusion, confirmed by air monitoring.

2004

The city of St. Louis Park constructs Louisiana Avenue traffic improvement projects following EPA and MPCA approved protocols for management of contaminated soils.

2005

PAHs in the city of Edina well E13 temporarily exceed advisory level but continue to meet drinking water criteria.

2006

MPCA conducts 3rd Five-Year Review with oversight by EPA. Concludes that most Reilly-affected groundwater is being contained by required pumping, but recommends evaluation of increased pumping to protect the city of Edina wells. Also recommended additional investigation of vapor intrusion.

2008

MPCA conducts soil vapor study. Results indicate further sampling needed. EPA and MPCA approve the city of St. Louis Park's plans to expand water level monitoring to better evaluate groundwater flow.

2009-10

The city of St. Louis Park and Vertellus (Reilly Tar) decline to conduct vapor study and EPA begins preparations.

2011

MPCA conducts 4th Five-Year Review with oversight of EPA. Protectiveness of the remedy is deferred pending completion of vapor intrusion investigation.

2011-14

EPA samples sub-slab, indoor, and outdoor air at and near the site over several seasons for PAHs, VOCs and SVOCs and concludes that this pathway does not present a health risk.

2013

EPA and MPCA direct the city of St. Louis Park and/or Vertellus (Reilly Tar) to modify the gradient control system in the Prairie du Chien/Jordan aquifer. The city of St. Louis Park submits a plan for three new monitoring wells and revised gradient control plan.

2014

Monitoring initiated in three new Prairie du Chien/Jordan wells. EPA documents the results of the vapor intrusion investigation in a Five-Year Review Addendum. EPA also initiates updated groundwater modeling to evaluate gradient control.