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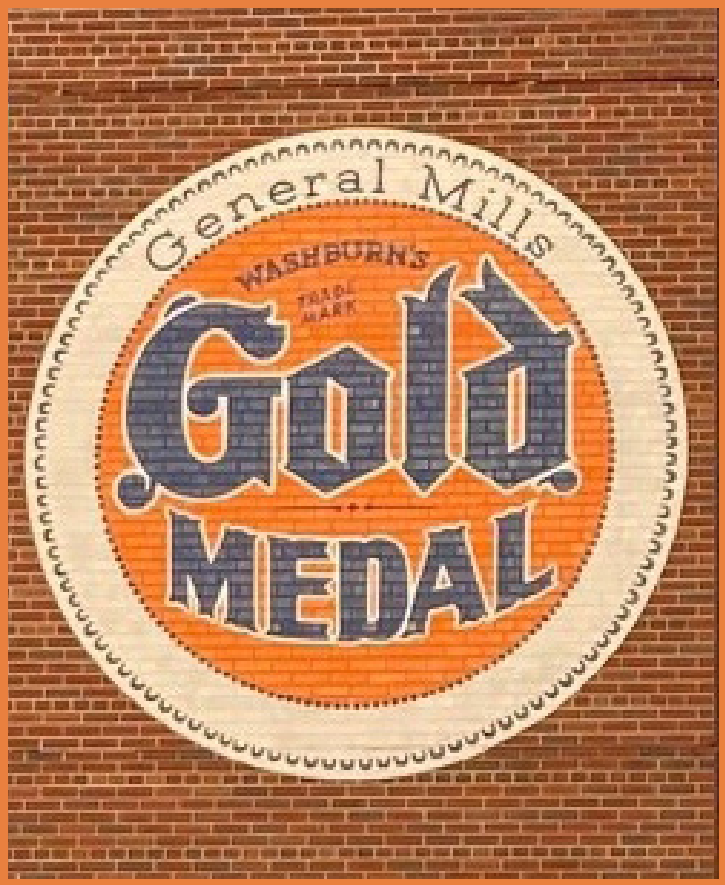
Community Involvement Plan

SOUTHEAST HENNEPIN AREA GROUNDWATER & VAPOR SUPERFUND SITE AND GENERAL MILLS/HENKEL CORP. SUPERFUND SITE

EPA

JUNE 2023



CONTENTS

Describes the purpose of this CIP, presents EPA's community outreach objectives and provides a brief history about the site.

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency prepared this **Community Involvement Plan** to inform, engage and support the **community** affected by the Southeast Hennepin Area Groundwater & Vapor and General Mills/Henkel Corp. **Superfund** sites located in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Our **community involvement** program is committed to promoting effective and meaningful communication between the **public** and the Agency. We want to make sure the community's concerns and information needs are considered as activities at the sites progress.

This **CIP** was prepared to support environmental investigation and **cleanup** activities at the Southeast Hennepin Area Groundwater & Vapor and General Mills/Henkel Corp. Superfund sites. We used several information sources to develop this plan, including research, discussions with community members and state/local agency partners, as well as through information gathered during community interviews. EPA Community Involvement Coordinators Kirstin Safakas and Danielle Kaufman; EPA Remedial Project Manager Andrew Kleist; Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Project Manager Tom Reppe; MPCA Supervisor Tim Grape; Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Health Assessor Emily Hansen; MDH Supervisor of the Site Assessment and Consultation Unit David Jones; and MDH Communications Director Julie Kadrie, spoke with 24 residents from the SE Como and City-Industrial neighborhoods of Minneapolis; one person who used to live in the area; one person who owns property in the area; one person from outside the area; one Minneapolis city official; and one state representative. We also spoke with five residents from the adjacent city of Lauderdale. Most of the interviews were done in person with others done in a virtual setting. Interviews were conducted from March 27 through April 20, 2023. We also received written concerns from a resident and an additional concern from another resident during a telephone conversation.

*(Words in **bold** are defined in Appendix A.)*

Emily Hansen of MDH (left), Kirstin Safakas of EPA (center) and Danielle Kaufman of EPA listen intently to a resident express their concerns about the sites.

EPA's Community Involvement Goals

- Assist residents in understanding the steps toward decision-making during the sites' investigation and cleanup.
- Give accessible, accurate, timely and understandable information about the project as it moves forward.
- Ensure adequate time and opportunity is given to the public to supply EPA with meaningful input.
- Reflect and respond to community concerns, questions and informational needs.
- Respect and fully embrace community involvement throughout the Superfund process.

This CIP describes EPA's plan for addressing concerns and keeping the community involved in investigation and cleanup activities at the sites. We will use this document as a guide to involve and communicate with residents, community groups, businesses and the city of Minneapolis and state of Minnesota officials.

If you are interested in submitting comments or have questions or suggestions concerning this CIP, please contact:

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The CIP is a working document. As input is received from the community, the investigation and cleanup process may evolve. This plan is intended to be flexible and adaptable, used as a guideline for our communication with members of the community.

Overview of the Sites

Southeast Hennepin Area Groundwater & Vapor site

The Southeast Hennepin Area Groundwater & Vapor site consists of an area of **groundwater** contaminated with various v**olatile organic compounds**, or **VOCs**, including **trichloroethylene**, or **TCE**, from several known and unknown sources. These VOCs have gotten into the ground and created an area of vapor **contamination** in the soil, also known as a **plume**. The contaminants were first identified when a groundwater and vapor plume was found to be migrating towards the neighboring General Mills/ Henkel Corp. Superfund site. The area has developed around commercial and industrial operations since the 1930s. Former and current operations that may have used VOCs include potential dumping at a former gravel pit, foundry and outdoor motor manufacturing, metal finishing, and dry cleaning. Residential properties are located along the southern portion of the site.

Minnesota referred the site to EPA due to the potential impacts, size, scope, and complexity of the site as well as the need for further investigation and cleanup. MPCA had managed site contamination for several years under a variety of state programs, both voluntary and enforcement driven, but had been unable to effectuate a comprehensive investigation and cleanup. Several facilities in the study are still in the state's voluntary cleanup program.

General Mills/Henkel Corp. site

The General Mills/Henkel Corp. site is located on East Hennepin Avenue in Minneapolis. General Mills used the area as a food research facility beginning in 1930, and from 1947 to 1977, also used the site for chemical research. Waste disposal operations between 1947 and 1962 contaminated soil and groundwater with hazardous chemicals. The property was purchased by the Henkel Corp. in 1977 and has since been resold.

Soil and groundwater cleanup has occurred at the site, and additional work to address the vapor intrusion pathway is nearing completion. Most of the buildings requiring protection now have vapor mitigation systems; however, there are still buildings that require mitigation. Vapor mitigation systems either actively or passively remove vapors from a building. Groundwater monitoring continues at the site; it is addressed by General Mills, Inc., with MPCA oversight.

Buildings on the former General Mills property.

Vapor Intrusion

When chemicals or petroleum products spill or leak into the ground, they may give off gases or vapors that can get inside buildings, such as homes. The vapors can move through the soil and seep through cracks in basements or foundations, sewer lines and other openings. Common products that may cause vapor intrusion are gasoline or diesel fuel, dry cleaning solvents and industrial degreasers.

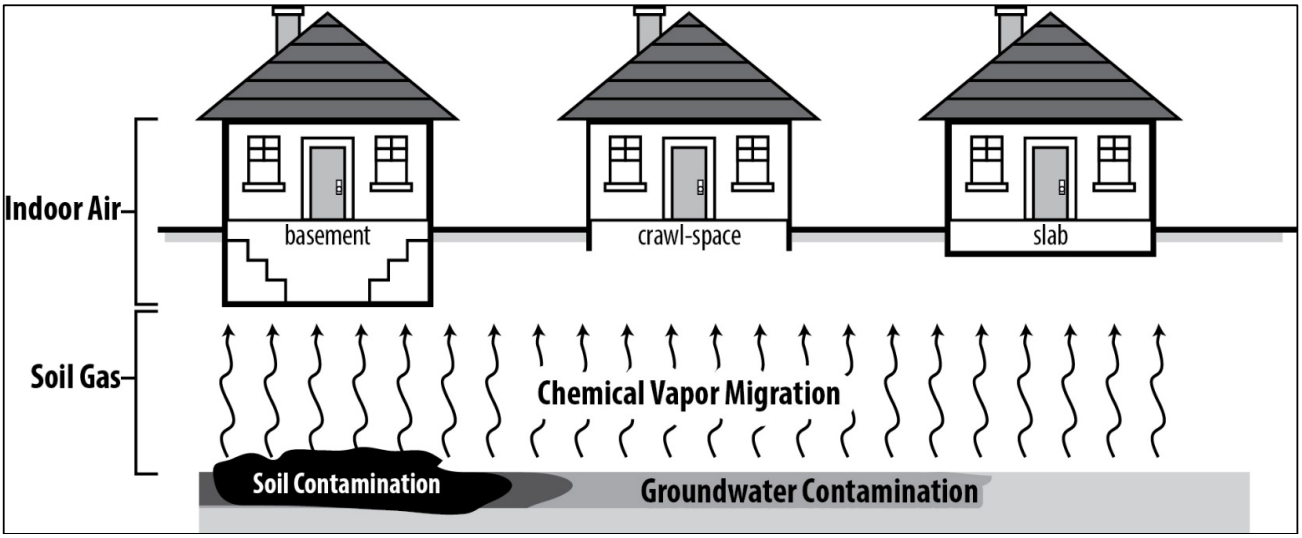
Some vapors have a gasoline odor, and others are odorless and tasteless, such as TCE. At the Southeast Hennepin Area Groundwater & Vapor Superfund site, TCE is the primary VOC found within the plume.

Vapor intrusion is a concern because vapors can build up to a point where the health of residents or workers may be at risk. Health risks vary based on the type and amount of chemicals, although how healthy you are and how long you are exposed are also factors. Until these vapors are vented from the indoor air, some people may experience symptoms that could include eye and respiratory irritation, headaches, or nausea. Low-level chemical exposures over many years, however, may lead to chronic disease, including cancer. Long-term exposures are especially dangerous for children, pregnant women, or people with underlying health conditions.

In future investigations of the Southeast Hennepin Area Groundwater & Vapor site, EPA may need permission to conduct air sampling on your property if it is within the site boundaries. This sampling will help to determine if vapor intrusion is occurring.

If you have specific questions on how vapor intrusion may impact your family's health, contact your local health department, or the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, or ATSDR, at 888-422-8737, or visit www.atsdr.cdc.gov.

For more detailed information on vapor intrusion, visit www.epa.gov/vaporintrusion.
You may also call the EPA Indoor Air Quality Information hotline at 800-438-4318.



This diagram shows how vapors can rise through the soil and into your home.

(*See Page 27 for more detail about the sites.*)

Community Engagement is Essential to the Success of Superfund Cleanups

Former General Mills building.

Ongoing input and involvement with the community is essential in our efforts to provide effective community engagement, as the Agency's decision-making ability is enhanced by actively seeking input and information from the community. Residents need to be involved in all phases of the investigation and cleanup so that the contamination is addressed in a way that protects people and the environment – now and in the future.

Information from residents, business owners, and local government officials can help determine the location of contamination, how people may be exposed to the contamination, and perhaps even sources of the contamination. With this valuable information, locals can assist us in determining the best way to clean up the site. The residents and officials EPA spoke with educated us about their community, which are presented below.

This section is intended to faithfully record and reflect the issues and concerns expressed to EPA by residents and officials interviewed during our community interviews. By necessity, this is a collection

Summarizes what community members are concerned about, the questions they asked and what they told EPA.

and summary of thoughts and observations and, in some cases, opinions. Please be cautioned that the statements contained in this section may or may not be factual and that the opinions/concerns expressed may or may not be valid.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

What We Heard

Concerns or comments people expressed about the investigation and cleanup of the site during the community interviews include:

CONTAMINANT VAPORS

The biggest concern we heard from people was regarding the potential for VOC vapors to get into homes and buildings. Several expressed concern about people either living or spending a lot of time in basements. Most of those said they were concerned about so many people, mostly students, living in rental units in basements in the neighborhood, and that they do not believe the students are aware of the vapors. One person said he and his wife live in a basement and are concerned. Another said he was concerned because he worked in his basement. A couple of people said they just spend a lot of time at home and are concerned about the vapors. One person said she has a deep basement and wondered if that might make her more vulnerable. She went on to say, "There are a lot of 'crappy' basements in the neighborhood." Still another said there were a lot of homes with cracked foundations in the neighborhood which would allow vapors to enter the homes. A couple of people said they were not in the area of contamination years ago when they had their home tested but wondered if that had changed. One said her neighbor's home tested high but hers did not and was concerned that the contamination could move to her home, and she would not know it.

A few people asked if they could get their home or building tested for vapors. A couple in the neighborhood said they had a radon system so feel some level of comfort because of that but would be open to having their home sampled. They questioned if mitigation systems were only being offered to owner-occupied homes and not rentals and questioned if General Mills was paying for the installation of the systems. One person who has lived in the neighborhood all his life said he would like a system if he could get one. A couple of people from nearby Lauderdale asked if they could get their home tested, as they were concerned that the contamination could be in their area as well.

A few people who came to meet with EPA had received the postcard in the mail and wondered if that meant they were in the area of contamination and/or should be concerned. One said he had bought his home in Lauderdale recently and then got the postcard so was curious and thought he should learn more about it. Another person who received the postcard and was concerned owns a rental building in the neighborhood also wanted to learn more about the sampling and mitigation systems.

A few people talked about the need for people to understand how the mitigation systems work and how to maintain them. One person said that many of the vapor systems are old, and she was concerned people are not keeping up with system maintenance. She said she thought if the state puts in a system, the state should regularly send out a letter to the homeowner to remind the homeowner about how to verify their system is still working.

A few of people expressed concern about so many homes in the neighborhood with vapor systems releasing the vapors into the air, because they did not think that sounded safe. A couple stated that with the system pipes enclosed in their walls they would not be able to tell if they were leaking vapors into their home. They said they were told the system would take care of the vapors and it would be safe, but it does not sound safe to them.

One person said until clean-up is complete, the ongoing maintenance of all vapor dispersion systems should be provided at no cost to residents or property owners.

One said, "I am glad to have a vapor mitigation system and think General Mills contractors did a great job installing the system."

A couple questioned if the tenants of the 2010 former General Mills building were at risk for vapor intrusion. Someone who rents space in the former General Mills building said she was not concerned because she is not exposed to the vapors. She said the people she shares space with are also not concerned. That being said, she then mentioned that she would be concerned if she lived in a space that did not have a mitigation system and she had children.

HEALTH IMPACTS

Almost half of the people EPA interviewed expressed concern about the potential impact of the contamination on people's health. Several expressed concern that there are so many transient people that live in the neighborhood that there would be no way to track the health impacts to that population. A couple said when the sampling was being done, the contractors were wearing hazmat suits, but they were told there was nothing to be concerned about, which they did not believe. They questioned if the health department was studying the health of residents in the neighborhood in comparison with those outside the neighborhood.

Several people told EPA they were concerned about trichloroethylene, or TCE, contamination causing cancer. One said she worried about the potential for cancer and would not live in a space without a mitigation system if she had children. Another said that he did not live in the plume area, but his family has had cancer and wondered if the TCE could have been a contributing factor. A couple said they were concerned about cancer. Another couple said their neighbor died of cancer and another neighbor had a dog that died of cancer. They also said their daughter had asthma. Still another couple told people that there had been birth defects in the neighborhood. That couple also said someone once sent out a form and asked if people had any health issues, specifically kidney problems. One of them said that she had kidney cancer and two of their children had one kidney but were told their issues were not a concern. They also talked about losing a child to cancer. Another woman told EPA her husband had kidney problems. A few people expressed concern about the potential for the TCE to cause Parkinson's disease. One person said he was not concerned at first, but then someone told him he should be. That person told him that they believed the contamination caused a Parkinson's-like neurological problem for someone else who lived in the neighborhood. The person EPA spoke with said that he was not "panicked," but thought he should learn more about the contamination. Another person EPA spoke with said she knew of several people in the neighborhood that have Parkinson's. One interviewee EPA spoke with said he had neuropathy in his legs, and he knew of two other people from a local brewery that he frequents in the neighborhood have had the same type of medical tests done as he had. He said, "I go there a lot and wonder if there is a correlation with the contamination." This interviewee did not think EPA was doing enough to find out what health problems people were having, and felt that his health issues could all be associated with TCE.

One interviewee said, "There are a lot of people that have lived here for several decades, so the impacts to us would be greater than those who are transient." Another said he was concerned about his kids, so he wanted to understand what was going on and to know the health effects of TCE. A couple of people said they just wanted neighbors be safe.

LACK OF AWARENESS/ COMMUNICATION

Slightly less than half of the people EPA spoke with expressed concern about the lack of communication about the site. Most of those specifically said they were concerned about the lack of awareness of the contamination. One person said her main concern was that the contamination is still there, and people do not even know about it. She said she had been renting near a Superfund site for six months before she found out about the contamination. She said that she was not concerned but thought people should be aware. Another said he did not think his neighbors knew about the contamination. One interviewee said she thought that long-term residents were aware of the contamination, but not the students and landlords. She also said many of the new Americans in the neighborhood were also likely unaware. Still another couple said they thought some long-term residents do not know about the contamination. A couple from Lauderdale questioned why no one had talked to the residents of Lauderdale until now. One said, "These sites have been going on for years and no one has talked to the residents of Lauderdale?"

Others expressed disappointment with the lack of information provided. One said he was disappointed that they were not provided regularly-updated maps showing the boundaries of the plume and that he would like to see the most up-to-date plume map. Another said he was surprised about the lack of information regarding the toxicity of TCE and the lack of studies about the health effects of TCE

A couple, when referring to the information provided about the potential risks posed by the contamination, said the messaging was tenable. One interviewee said he thought the Southeast Como Improvement Association, or SECIA, could have done more to keep the contamination in the forefront.

EPA Community Involvement Coordinator talks with a resident about the site.

LENGTH OF TIME

Several people expressed concern that the investigation and cleanup process is taking so long. One said, "If the contamination was discovered in the 1980s, why is it still a problem?" He also said that it should no longer be an issue. Another said that MPCA had known about the contamination for decades and he thought it seemed like MPCA thought it would just go away since they had not taken any action other than installing vapor mitigation systems. He thought MPCA should be liable for that. He said he knew of a family that had babies and were so afraid that they left their house empty for a year. Still another expressed frustration that EPA is now starting the lengthy remedial investigation and feasibility process under Superfund after so many years have passed.

CONTAMINATED SOIL

A couple of people EPA spoke with talked about the source of the contamination. One said he thought General Mills dug up the contaminated soil and moved it to Lauderdale. He said Lauderdale used to be a swamp, but it was filled in. He questioned where Lauderdale got the fill. He said, "The dirt came from somewhere" and believes it came from General Mills.

DRINKING WATER

Several people EPA spoke with asked if they should be concerned about their water with one saying "water quality is important to me." However, when EPA explained that everyone in the area is hooked up to city water and the source of the city drinking water was not coming from the groundwater, most said they were not concerned about the drinking water. One city official said that since the city water comes from the river, the groundwater is not a concern for the city drinking water. Nonetheless, a couple of people EPA interviewed still expressed concern. One said he was concerned that if pipes were to leak, the contaminated groundwater could impact the drinking water. One of those individuals said he was concerned about a brewery that uses the city water in their production.

SURFACE WATER

A couple of people EPA interviewed expressed concern about the groundwater contamination getting into the Mississippi River.

GROUNDWATER

Several people EPA spoke with expressed concern about the contamination in the groundwater. They said they wanted the contaminated groundwater to be cleaned up. As one put it, "If it harms anyone in any way, the cleanup should be done regardless of how complicated it is." Several said they wanted to know what EPA was going to do about cleaning up the groundwater. A couple of people said they wanted the groundwater to be cleaned up "without digging everything up." They said they wanted to see EPA use technologies that involve injecting chemicals into the water to help break down the contamination. One of those individuals said people did not believe him when he told them about that technology. He expressed frustration that people had not been educated about it, and thought EPA should explain that they plan to clean up the groundwater and explain the technology of injecting chemicals into the groundwater to the community members.

RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

A couple of people expressed concern about General Mills being let "off the hook", and that not enough pressure was being put on the company as a responsible party. One of those said General Mills should be held accountable until the cleanup is done. One asked EPA if they knew General Mills had said it was done with the site. One person expressed concern that the contamination had spread beyond the original boundaries because it was not addressed quickly enough. Some people asked if General Mills/Henkel Corp. site management was transferred to EPA because the agency has more power to hold them accountable.

Several people asked EPA what happened to the class action suit against General Mills for the groundwater contamination. A couple said they were surprised it stopped since EPA was still working on the site. Another said, "There was a big lawsuit and then we were told it was not a problem."

Several people also asked EPA how many responsible parties the agency has found for the Southeast Hennepin site.

HOME VALUES/DISCLOSURE

Several people EPA interviewed expressed concern about selling their homes. Several questioned how the contamination and/or being in a Superfund site would impact their home values. A few wanted to know if they could get the sampling results from their property or from sampling near their property that could show that their property was "fine" to help them with selling. One of those asked if they could get a guarantee that their home was okay. Another said he would want to know the status of his property before he sold it to anyone. One said they were concerned that their property would be less valuable because they were told they could not put a bedroom in their attic because the vapor mitigation system went through the attic. A few people questioned what, if anything, they would need to disclose when they sell. One person said she would not buy a home in the area if she had children or if she wanted to start a family. Another said if he learned his home was in the area of contamination, he would want to sell.

LANDLORDS NOT DISCLOSING INFORMATION

A few people EPA spoke with expressed concern that landlords in the neighborhood had not disclosed information about the contamination to tenants, specifically students. One said, "Many are living in these rental units unaware of the problem." Another said she was concerned the landlords were taking advantage of the students, questioning if a homeowner that was offered a system but did not have one installed was to sell to a developer, if the developer would be required to install a system. She further questioned if there were any controls in place over the development of apartments being put in basements in properties over the plume. Another questioned if landlords were responsible for maintaining the systems. She said both landlords and tenants need to be educated.

Opinions of local, state, and EPA

When asked if they trusted their local government and/or EPA, people said:

Local government

- Most students don't engage with the local government or know them.
- I trust the local government.
- The city and SECIA are trustworthy.
- We get a pretty good newsletter from the city and the city folks are reachable.
- I have a good relationship with the city.
- I do not really trust the local government – they have basically ignored the problem.
- I don't have a strong opinion about the local government. I get their newsletter and find it informative.
- City officials are pretty responsive.

State government

- I don't trust state much as the local government. I reached out to MPCA many years ago about a pollution and got no help. I like the individuals in the organization, but not the overall agency. The money, politics, and closed doors.
- We have a favorable opinion of MPCA.
- The MPCA project manager has been great and informative – I rely on him for my information. The previous public information officer for MPCA was good, but the current public information officer is not as informed.
- State Representative Noor has taken an interest in the sites and has moved into the neighborhood – he is intelligent.
- I have faith in the state and have regard for your mission.
- It depends on the issue. More trust of our state agency than other's state agencies.

Federal government/EPA

- I strongly support EPA. I would like to see more regulatory authority that you need to protect people and the environment. I would love to see NEPA strengthened.
- I think the students trust EPA.
- I trust EPA.
- It feels like EPA has good people that care about their jobs.
- EPA can overstep at times, but basically, I appreciate.
- Lower-level staff at EPA are pretty good.
- I have faith in the federal government and have regard for your mission.
- I trust EPA more now than a couple of years ago.
- I generally trust EPA – on most things think they try to use good science and make good decisions.
- I am generally trustful of institutions of the government, but sometimes the government is saying that we statistically do not see a problem, but the anecdotal information from the community doesn't align, can cause distrust.
- I don't trust federal as much as the local government. I like the individuals in the organizations, but not the overall agency. The money, politics, and closed doors.

Media

- I have less trust in radio, TV, and social media.
- The Star Tribune is okay but does not cover the site much.

General comments

- We are glad the studies are being done.
- We have been so blessed.
  This is just a bump in the road.
- Thanks for your good work on our behalf.
- I expressed support for the Southeast Hennepin listing.
- This is a pretty big deal for our community.
- I was not overly concerned but appreciate the opportunity to talk with you.
- I have heard people saying they were not concerned because they are comfortable with what is being done and because there is a solution.
- General Mills used to invite kids in the neighborhoods to get cereal.
- We walked by the disposal pit every day.
- We used to hang out in the weeds on the property.

Questions interviewees asked EPA

- Have the boundaries of the contamination moved or was there not enough testing?
- Are the levels of the contamination increasing?
- Is our water okay?
- Has the vapor intrusion reached my neighborhood?
- How do I know if my property is affected?
- Is there something I need to report if I am planning to sell, even if my property is not impacted?
- Do these sites ever get cleaned up and are no longer a problem?
- Have all the sources been identified?
- What are the physical effects of TCE?
- Is TCE a carcinogen?
- The area has a lot of wildlife, how does it affect deer, squirrels, rabbits, etc.?
- Is there a device you can get to monitor for TCE?
- Does the type of soil figure into the flow of vapors?
- Do you foresee developing any sort of sensor for TCE?
- Do radon mitigation systems also remove TCE vapors?
- How do I know if my system is working properly?
- Is there any follow up after a system is installed?
- Are landlords responsible for maintaining the systems?
- Who do I call if I have problems with my system?
- Are the vapors being released into the air from the mitigation systems safe?
- Are there any controls in place over the development of apartments being put in basements if the property is over the plume?
- Are there other contaminants of concern?
- Did you also test for radon?
- My property is near the site, but I have not been asked to have my property sampled. Why?
- Is this more a vapor issue than a groundwater issue?
- What stage are you in the process for each of the sites?
- What is the status of the investigation?
- What will the investigation entail?
- Will you be digging holes?
- Have the General Mills buildings as a workplace been assessed? Are they being sampled?
- What are the health risks associated with the contamination?
- Is there any sort of compensation for impacted property owners?
- Are there maps that show the contaminant levels?
- If we wanted to have our property sampled, how would we go about that?
- Would General Mills pay for our property to be sampled?
- It seems like General Mills is installing vapor mitigation systems at some properties and not at others – is that a matter of timing or the type of property?
- As a rental property owner, if we had a system installed, would I have to notify the renters?
- Do you know what company(ies) caused the Southeast Hennepin site contamination?
- Why did you sample in the Southeast Hennepin site area in the first place?
- Is the pump-and-treat system still being used?
- Can the General Mills property be redeveloped?
- Is there anything we should be doing to protect ourselves?
- We did not live in the plume area, but our family has had some cancers—could these sites be a potential contributing factor?
- Is General Mills cooperating with the cleanup?
- Are there any other companies that have contributed to the contamination?
- What does Henkel Corp. have to do with the site and/or contamination?
- Is the search for potentially responsible parties, or PRPs, for the Southeast Hennepin site done?
- How far back in time does EPA go when looking for PRPs?
- Does the quarry affect the investigation?
- I have cracks in my floor. Should have my home re-inspected?
- I remember that for the General Mills site, they wanted to do the sampling in the winter because they said they get better results in the winter. Why are you now sampling in the summer?
- If the contamination was discovered in the 1980's, why is it still a problem?
- How often do you test the groundwater wells? Will it be indefinitely?

- Has anyone gotten sick from the contamination?
- Are you only mitigating owner properties and not rental?
- What is the magnitude of the Southeast Hennepin site?
- What happened with the class-action suit?
- Was Glidden Paint ever investigated? They were right across the street.
- How do you determine the boundaries for the site?

Describe your community

When asked to describe their community, people said:

It is in transition

- It is an area in transition from single-family started homes to multi-unit rentals.
- Most houses are being torn down and converted into apartments.
- It has high turnover.
- When I moved in it was about 50/50 owner to renter; now it is 80/20.
- Back in the day we knew everyone in the neighborhood. Now it is different – it is all rental.
- Our house has been in the family for generations, but developers are buying up the properties and making them into rentals.
- When the school closed, we lost a lot of families. The demographics have changed a lot from family homes to student rentals.
- There is a schism between absentee landlords and homeowners.
- It is now less of a family neighborhood. Now more rentals and students and a more transient population.
- There are also a lot of absentee landlords.
- It was a nice area when we moved in. It had great schools, people had grass lawns. You knew all of your neighbors and all the kids. It is mostly students now – kind of sad. The students are mostly respectful, but they have their own things to do.
- Developers are squeezing in big rental units on small lots.

It is safe

- It is a good, safe, family area.
- It is safe, quiet, poor, but active.
- We did not see the vandalism that other areas did after the George Floyd incident.
- It is fairly safe and stable. Not much unrest or crime.

It is convenient and has lots of amenities

- There are lots of things to do in the neighborhood.
- It is walkable.
- I love being close to the river.
- It is affordable.
- It is on a good bus route.
- It has a lot of characteristics that make it attractive, such as recreational facilities and arts and theater.
- It was a nice place to grow up – we loved being able to walk to school and the park.
- People can bike and walk to the university.
- We have access to the Grand Rounds Scenic Byway – the "Missing Link."
- The area is centrally located and has access to the university, good restaurants, and good transportation.

It is diverse

- People have made it a landing spot for new Minnesotans.
- The first [non-Native American] settlers in the area were Irish and Eastern Europeans. Now it is more East African.
- We are a community of artists, entrepreneurs, students, entertainment and music, and dreamers.
- It is eclectic and architecturally interesting.

It is influenced by the University of Minnesota

- I like the association with the university.
- It has a large population of people in their 20's.
- It is a highly university-influenced community.
- It has so many students or young people in their first jobs.

General comments:

- I like the neighborhood.
- We have a long history and interest in community gardens and greening.
- There are five native plant gardens in the area and another coming.
- People are pragmatic and more practical.
- It is a story of industry and pollution.
- I do not like the industry – our neighborhood is sandwiched between two industrial areas.
- It is shaped by the area's natural resources, namely the Mississippi River.
- The area used to be a peat bog, so a lot of water settled in the area. The ground is spongy and buildings sink.
- It is kind of historical and is slightly removed from the industry.
- In the context of Minneapolis, the SE Como neighborhood is often neglected. I think it is because it is mainly students surrounded by industry and kind of cut off.
- There are still some old hippies around.

Highlights EPA's goals, activities and timeline to keep community members and local officials informed and involved.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT OBJECTIVE & ACTIVITIES

When establishing objectives for a site-specific community involvement program we consider several factors, including federal requirements and EPA policy that assess the nature and extent of known (or perceived) site contaminants and known community concerns.

To be effective, our community involvement program is designed to meet the community's need to know. EPA plans to share information in a timely manner and accommodate the community's interests as well as its willingness to participate in our decision-making processes. We are tasked with sharing information in plain language that the public can understand.
We have established the following objectives for our community involvement efforts:

- Enlist the support, coordination and involvement of the city of Minneapolis and Minnesota state officials and community leaders.
- Enlist the support, coordination and involvement of MPCA and MDH.
- Monitor citizen interest in the sites and respond accordingly.
- Keep the community well-informed of ongoing and planned activities at the sites.
- Explain technical findings and documents in an understandable format for residents.
- Translate written materials into Somali, Oromo, and Mandarin and any other identified languages.
- Get public input on key decision steps.
- Update EPA's website regularly, providing useful information for the community.
- Update the city of Minneapolis, Hennepin County and state of Minnesota officials on a periodic basis.
- Hold **public meetings** and open houses, when necessary, within the community, giving all residents an opportunity to attend.

EPA has or will put in place the activities described on the following pages to actively engage the community in decisions regarding the investigation and cleanup of the Southeast Hennepin Area Groundwater & Vapor and General Mills/Henkel Corp. Superfund sites. The following plan is intended as opportunities for communication between the community and EPA, addressing key concerns and questions raised during the community interviews conducted with locals in Minneapolis.

Community Involvement Activities

To address community concerns and questions described in the Community Concerns section, while also meeting federal requirements, EPA has conducted/will conduct the activities described below. Through these activities, it is our goal to inform, involve and engage locals during cleanup efforts at the sites. As the needs of the community change, we will modify community involvement strategies to address them.

MAINTAIN POINT OF CONTACT

Kirstin Safakas is the primary liaison between EPA and the city of Minneapolis, SE Como and Mid-City Industrial neighborhood communities and state officials for the Southeast Hennepin Area Groundwater & Vapor site. Kirstin serves as the point of contact for community members and fields general questions about the sites. Danielle Kaufman is the primary liaison for the General Mills/Henkel Corp. site. For technical issues, they coordinate with Andrew Kleist, EPA's Remedial **Project Manager**, or **RPM**. Andrew is responsible for overseeing the long-term investigation and cleanup activities for both sites under EPA's Remedial Program under Superfund.

Kirstin Safakas
Public Liaison
Office: 312-886-6015
Cell: 312-919-4621
safakas.kirstin@epa.gov

Danielle Kaufman
Public Liaison
312-886-6703
kaufman.danielle@epa.gov

Andrew Kleist
Remedial Project Manager
920-401-1816
kleist.andrew@epa.gov

Located in the Chicago office, Kirstin and Danielle can also be reached weekdays toll-free at: 800-621-8431 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

POST INFORMATION ONLINE

www.epa.gov/superfund/SEHennepinGroundwater
www.epa.gov/superfund/General-Mills-Henkel

We will provide information on activities and past communications on the EPA website as well as update the site as events occur. Community members recommended EPA keep its website up to date and provide information to be posted on city and neighborhood websites as identified. A couple people told EPA they had visited EPA's website and that they were able to find what they were looking for. All but one interviewee had access to the internet to get information.

UTILIZE SOCIAL MEDIA

www.facebook.com/EPAGreatLakes/
twitter.com/EPAGreatLakes

EPA Region 5 has active Facebook and Twitter accounts that frequently post updates regarding all sites. Residents can stay up to date on EPA's current work by visiting these websites. Community members recommended EPA provide information to be posted on city and neighborhood Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor, and Instagram pages. One individual said most students use YouTube more than the other platforms. Most people EPA spoke with said they did not, however, use social media at all.

CREATE CONTACT LISTS

We have established a mailing list of residents, organizations, businesses, and officials for the sites. This list will be used for mailing fact sheets, updates, invitations to public meetings and events and other site-related information. We will update the list regularly to reflect address changes as well as changes in elected officials. When requested, we will also add new interested parties to the list. We have also developed an e-mail distribution list—if a community member is interested in being placed on the mailing and/or e-mail list, they can contact the sites' Community Involvement Coordinators, or CICs Kirstin Safakas (Southeast Hennepin Area Groundwater & Vapor site) or Danielle Kaufman (General Mills/Henkel Corp. site). These lists are for EPA use only and are not shared with outside entities. Most people said they preferred to receive information via email but acknowledged some people may prefer to receive a hard copy mailing. People provided the EPA with a few local organizations and active community members to add to the mailing list and email distribution list.

PREPARE FACT SHEETS FOR UPDATES

We will prepare and distribute fact sheets, letters and updates summarizing current information about the sites and describing upcoming activities. These documents are written in non-technical language and usually developed to coincide with important activities at the sites. In addition to being shared with individuals on the sites' distribution lists, we also post them on EPA's website.

People told us there is a diverse population in the area, with some people speaking Somali, Oromo, Mandarin, Cantonese and Korean. People suggested translating printed materials into Somali, Oromo, and Mandarin (the most spoken languages besides English). Community members suggested EPA provide fact sheets to the city of Minneapolis, SECIA, and the Como Student Community Co-op. People said EPA should continue to mail the fact sheets out to the mailing list because some people still get the information that way. People also said to put translated fact sheets up at bulletin boards in local mosques.

DISTRIBUTE NEWS RELEASES

News releases allow us to reach large audiences quickly. We will post news releases on the sites' website as well as place announcements in local newspapers such as the Minneapolis Star Tribune and Minnesota Daily; in this we will also share information about significant investigation findings, public comment periods, public meetings, and completion of major milestones such as the proposal of a cleanup plan (Proposed Plan). We will continue to provide this information to the city of Minneapolis, state officials, and other local organizations listed in Appendix C. People recommended EPA send its news releases to the Star Tribune. A few members said they would sometimes read the MinnPost and a couple mentioned the Minnesota Daily online paper. One student said he did not think students read the Minnesota Daily. People also suggested EPA provide this information to the city of Minneapolis, SECIA, state officials, and the Como Student Community Co-op for posting on their websites and/or publishing in community newsletters.

Although most people said they did not use the radio as a source for local information, a couple of people recommended the following radio stations be included in the distribution of news releases: Minnesota Public Radio - KNOW 91.1FM and KTSP 94.5 FM (KS 95) as well as AM950. Similarly, most said they did not get their news from television, but people mentioned watching the following stations: KMSP-TV FOX, WCCO-TV CBS, KSTP-TV ABC, and KTCA–TV PBS.

PROVIDE INFORMATION TO CITY AND STATE OFFICIALS AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

EPA will provide information to be included in newsletters and email distributions disseminated by the cities of Minneapolis and Lauderdale as well as the SECIA and Como Student Community Co-op newsletters. Note: A SECIA representative said they needed information three months in advance of the publication date, but that they also had an email distribution list to disseminate information. Some people suggested EPA provide the information to State representatives Sydney Jordan and Mohamud Noor and State Senator Kari Dziedzic to distribute via their newsletters and email communications. Note: According to the people EPA spoke with, State Senator Dziedzic has the largest listserv.

ESTABLISH INFORMATION REPOSITORIES & ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

We have set up a local **information repository** and the **Administrative Record** at the following location:

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road N
St. Paul, MN 55155

The information repository is a collection of information about the sites that is available to the public for reading and photocopying, whereas the Administrative Record gives residents a paper trail of all legal documents. Documents include fact sheets, technical reports, the CIP, and general Superfund information. These documents are also housed at the EPA Region 5 Superfund Records Center in Chicago (see Appendix C). An online database will remain available on the sites' websites. EPA has established a repository at the MPCA offices at 520 Lafayette Road N, St. Paul, MN 55155.

CONDUCT PUBLIC MEETINGS

Public meetings are an opportunity for EPA to present specific information and a proposed course of action, which are usually scheduled when there are technical project milestones. These meetings are not formal public hearings where testimony is received and recorded; instead, EPA may hold gatherings to exchange information with residents. In addition, EPA may hold informal open houses where citizens can meet with EPA experts one-on-one to discuss activities about the sites. Either type of meeting allows community members an opportunity to express their concerns and ask questions. When EPA asked if people would attend a virtual meeting about the sites, most said they would but that they preferred to meet in person.

EPA will consider conducting additional meetings at different times and locations throughout the community to give all residents an opportunity to attend.

Most people EPA spoke with said they would attend a public meeting about the site. Of those asked, most said they thought that the Van Cleve Recreation Center was a good location for a meeting. A state representative said to avoid holding a meeting on Muslim holidays.

When asked about what people thought about the meeting EPA held in December 2022, people said:

- It was not great. You did not explain in-situ chemical oxidation, or ISCO, technologies. [ISCO involves the introduction of a chemical oxidant into the subsurface for the purpose of transforming groundwater or soil contaminants into less harmful chemicals.]
- You need to explain how the vapor systems work and how to maintain them.
- The meeting should have more specific information and more science.
- I appreciated the opportunity to ask questions.
- It was too long, and I did not appreciate the lights being turned off.
- The meeting was heavy on what EPA and MPCA did, but we need more information on how it could affect us and what we need to do.
- It would be great if EPA could get students to come.
- It is hard to get people to come to meetings [regarding the transient population].

PARTICIPATE IN LOCAL EVENTS

On occasion, the city, local agencies, or community groups will request EPA's participation in events to provide information about the sites and respond to resident concerns. EPA considers invitations and offers to speak to community groups based on the event's ability to meaningfully reach members of the public. Community members suggested EPA speak to the SECIA board members during one of its meetings and/or attend the annual association meeting. One person also suggested EPA participate in the "Como Cookout" in the fall. She said it usually gets and attendance of around 1,000 people. Another person suggested giving presentations to classes at the local universities.

ASSIST IN FORMING A COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-community-advisory-groups

A **Community Advisory Group**, or **CAG**, is made up of residents and provides a formal mechanism for community members to have a voice in EPA decisions. CAGs are eligible for technical assistance and funding to help residents fully understand all aspects of environmental investigations, sampling data and interpretation of results and risks. If the community expresses interest, EPA can provide assistance in forming a CAG for the sites. One person interviewed said he was interested in supporting the development of a CAG.

PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SUPERFUND TOOLS

There are additional programs potentially of use to the community. Two of these programs are the **Technical Assistance Services for Communities**, or **TASC**, and the **Technical Assistance Grant**, or **TAG**. The TASC program supplies communities with technical guidance so they can better understand the science, regulations, and policies of environmental issues. TAGs provide funding for activities that help communities participate in decision-making at eligible Superfund sites. For more information on TASC & TAG, contact EPA CIC Kirstin Safakas.

PREPARE VIDEOS

To give residents a better visual of activities, EPA may consider taping a short video to show ongoing work at the sites. The video will be posted on EPA's website.

EVALUATE AND ADJUST

Interviewees also provided the following additional suggestions for community outreach:

Many people talked about how difficult it is to engage the students in these types of issues because they are less invested in the community long-term. Some suggestions people gave on how to engage the students include:

- Work with the University of Minnesota Office for Off-Campus living.
- Work with the Como Student Community Cooperative.
- Engage science groups at the university.
- Post information on bulletin boards throughout the campus buildings and dorms.

People also said to hold meetings, etc. when the students are around (avoiding summer, winter, and spring breaks).

One person also said to note international students and to be mindful that while the students speak English, there can also be cultural barriers.

According to people EPA spoke with, another group in the community that can be difficult to reach are new Americans. The SE Como neighborhood is home to many East African, primarily Somali and Ethiopian residents. We were also told many of them are unaware of the contamination. People offered the following ideas on how to reach that population:

- Hold a meeting directed specifically at the East African community at Van Cleve. According to people EPA spoke with, many East African community members do not read Somali, Oromo, or English, therefore, in-person communication works best. It was recommended that EPA provide food at the meeting – and that this food was culturally-specific and halal.
- Translate printed materials into English, Somali, and Oromo, and hang them in area apartment buildings.
- Go door-to-door and speak with residents and pass out the information.
- Be mindful of Muslim holidays.

General outreach comments and suggestions:

- The community is educated, so you can give more detail.
- Enlist the support of the city's neighborhood and Community Relations Department language services. (www2.minneapolismn.gov/government/departments/ncr/inclusive-community-engagement/language-services/)
- Provide information to area condominium associations to post and distribute to their residents.
- Provide information on how people can lower their risk, so they don't feel so disempowered.
- Be transparent. That is key.
- Understand the other persons values and speak to those.

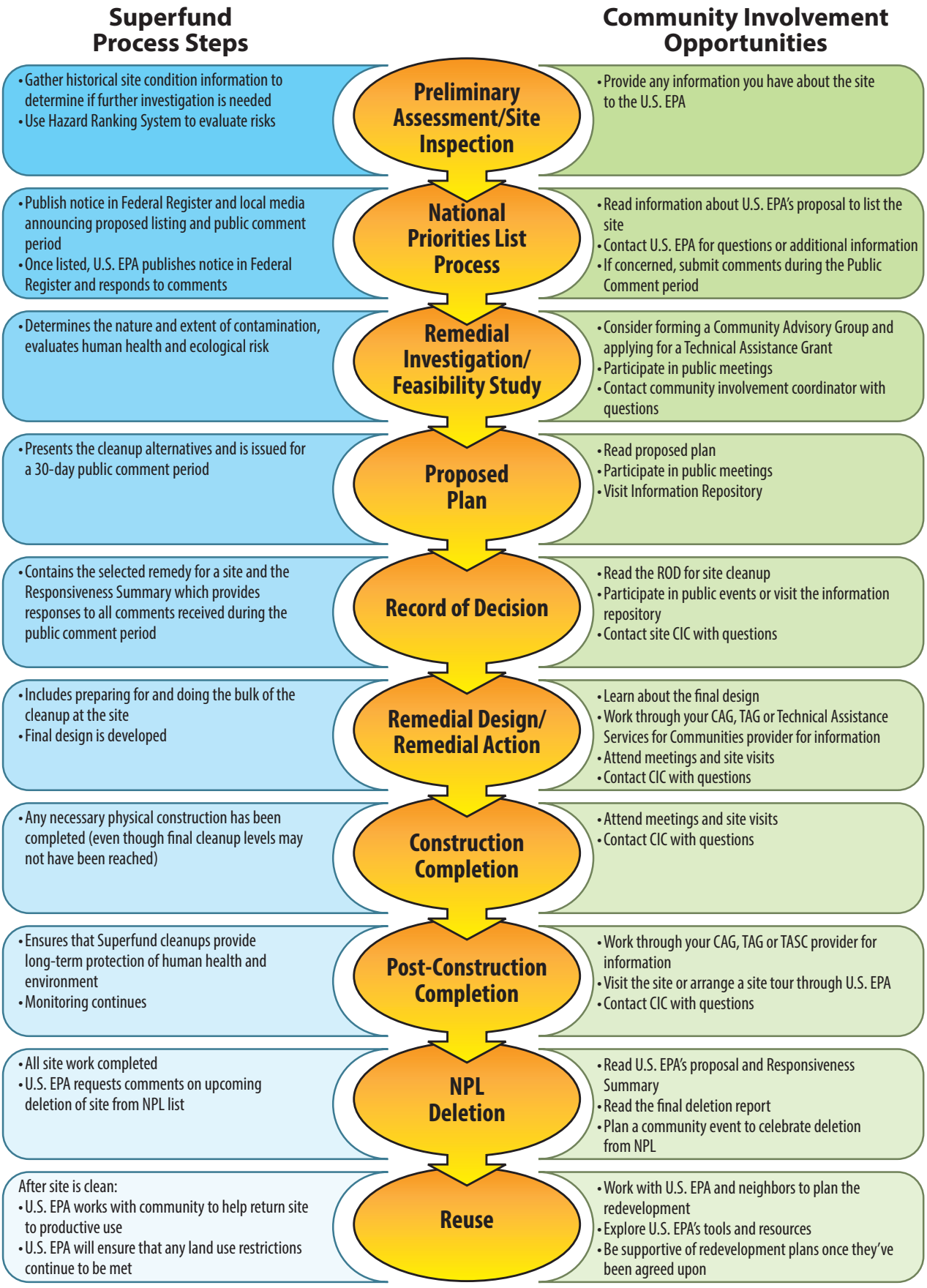
LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT

When asked how much involvement they wanted to have with the sites, most said they just wanted to be kept up-to-date. However, several said they would be interested in helping EPA distribute information.

Status of Community Involvement Activities

The graphic below shows the types of community involvement activities EPA organizes at a site and how they follow along with the investigation and cleanup process.

Activity	Status
Establish point of contact: Kirstin Safakas – Southeast Hennepin Danielle Kaufman – General Mills/Henkel Corp.	Completed
Establish a toll-free number: 800-621-8431	Completed
Post information online: www.epa.gov/superfund/SEHennepinGroundwater www.epa.gov/superfund/general-mills-henkel	Ongoing
Utilize social media	Ongoing
Create contact lists	Ongoing
Prepare fact sheets for updates	Ongoing
Distribute news releases	Ongoing
Provide information to city and state officials and local organizations	Ongoing
Establish information repositories & administrative record	Completed/Ongoing
Conduct public meetings	Ongoing
Participate in local events	As needed
Assist in forming a Community Advisory Group	If requested
Provide additional Superfund tools	As needed
Prepare videos	As needed
Evaluate and adjust	As needed


Superfund Process Steps
Community Involvement Opportunities
Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection
• Gather historical site condition information to determine if further investigation is needed
• Use Hazard Ranking System to evaluate risks
• Provide any information you have about the site to the U.S. EPA
National Priorities List Process
• Publish notice in Federal Register and local media announcing proposed listing and public comment period
• Once listed, U.S. EPA publishes notice in Federal Register and responds to comments
• Read information about U.S. EPA's proposal to list the site
• Contact U.S. EPA for questions or additional information
• If concerned, submit comments during the Public Comment period
Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study
• Determines the nature and extent of contamination, evaluates human health and ecological risk
• Consider forming a Community Advisory Group and applying for a Technical Assistance Grant
• Participate in public meetings
• Contact community involvement coordinator with questions
Proposed Plan
• Presents the cleanup alternatives and is issued for a 30-day public comment period
• Read proposed plan
• Participate in public meetings
• Visit Information Repository
Record of Decision
• Contains the selected remedy for a site and the Responsiveness Summary which provides responses to all comments received during the public comment period
• Read the ROD for site cleanup
• Participate in public events or visit the information repository
• Contact site CIC with questions
Remedial Design/ Remedial Action
• Includes preparing for and doing the bulk of the cleanup at the site
• Final design is developed
• Learn about the final design
• Work through your CAG, TAG or Technical Assistance Services for Communities provider for information
• Attend meetings and site visits
• Contact CIC with questions
Construction Completion
• Any necessary physical construction has been completed (even though final cleanup levels may not have been reached)
• Attend meetings and site visits
• Contact CIC with questions
Post-Construction Completion
• Ensures that Superfund cleanups provide long-term protection of human health and environment
• Monitoring continues
• Work through your CAG, TAG or TASC provider for information
• Visit the site or arrange a site tour through U.S. EPA
• Contact CIC with questions
NPL Deletion
• All site work completed
• U.S. EPA requests comments on upcoming deletion of site from NPL list
• Read U.S. EPA's proposal and Responsiveness Summary
• Read the final deletion report
• Plan a community event to celebrate deletion from NPL
Reuse
After site is clean:
• U.S. EPA works with community to help return site to productive use
• U.S. EPA will ensure that any land use restrictions continue to be met
• Work with U.S. EPA and neighbors to plan the redevelopment
• Explore U.S. EPA's tools and resources
• Be supportive of redevelopment plans once they've been agreed upon

Provides a brief summary of the composition of the Mid-City Industrial and SE Como Neighborhoods of Minneapolis.

THE COMMUNITY

Photo courtesy of the city of Minneapolis Parks Facebook Page: www.minneapolisparks.org/parks-destinations/parks-lakes/van_cleve_park/

The Southeast Hennepin Area Groundwater & Vapor and General Mills/Henkel Corp. Superfund sites are located in the city of Minneapolis.

EPA met with residents from the city of Minneapolis SE Como and Mid-City Industrial neighborhoods and officials from the cities of Minneapolis and Lauderdale and the state of Minnesota in the development of this CIP. The following provides information about the communities, including its history, government, and demographics.

City of Minneapolis

MID-CITY INDUSTRIAL NEIGHBORHOOD

The Southeast Hennepin site is located primarily in the Mid-City Industrial neighborhood, with some portion extending into the Southeast Como neighborhood.

Mid-City Industrial is a suburban neighborhood of Hennepin County, Minneapolis. Mid-City Industrial is bordered by Interstate 35 to the north and east, 33rd Avenue SE to the west, and East Hennepin Avenue and Winter Street NE to the south. Most homes in the neighborhood fall within the median price range of $260,000.

In 1913, the Mid-City Industrial Area was designated as a Minneapolis industrial area when Minneapolis began to limit land uses to restricted residential or industrial. In the 1920s, the Northwestern Terminal Company complex, Cream of Wheat, Glidden Paint Co., and other manufacturers operated factories in the area. Beginning in the 1960s, transition from industrial and freeway construction changed the character of the area. Recent modernization of old factories and industrial buildings has led to new uses, including housing.

DEMOGRAPHICS

According to the 2016-2020 American Community Survey, or ACS, 241 people reside in Mid-City Industrial in 145 housing units. Of these, 22 percent are owner-occupied units, and 78 percent are rental units. The 2016-2020 racial makeup of the neighborhood was 76 percent Caucasian, 10 percent Hispanic, 9 percent non-Hispanic Asian, 3 percent two or more races, and 2 percent Black.

According to the 2016-2020 ACS, 65 percent of Mid-City Industrial residents attained a bachelor's degree or higher, 17 percent were high school graduates, 11 percent had some college but no degree, 4 percent held an associate degree, and 3 percent had less than a 9th-grade education.

83 percent of Mid-City Industrial residents said they speak only English. Of the 17 percent of residents who speak languages other than English, 10 percent said they speak English very well, 5 percent said they speak English well, and 14 percent said they do not speak English well or at all. Languages spoken in households include English (73 percent), Chinese (13 percent), Spanish (3 percent), other Asian and Pacific Island (3 percent), other Indo-European (3 percent), Arabic (2 percent), German or other west Germanic (1 percent), and other/unspecified (1 percent).

Sources:

EPA EJSCREEN, U.S. Census 2016-2020 American Community Survey, or ACS

www.snoobear.org/SECIA/history/kiosk/Kiosk1.html

www.realtor.com/realestateandhomes-search/Mid-City-Industrial_Minneapolis_MN/overview

SE COMO

As stated above, a portion of the Southeast Hennepin site extends into the SE Como neighborhood. In addition, the General Mills/Henkel Corp. site is located entirely in this neighborhood.

Como, or Southeast Como, is an urban/suburban neighborhood in southeast Hennepin County, Minneapolis, Minnesota, approximately one mile north of the east bank campus of the University of Minnesota. Southeast Como is bordered to the north by East Hennepin Avenue and Winter Street NE, to the east by 33rd Avenue SE, and to the south and west by the Southeast Industrial Area south of Elm Street, Interstate 35W and the Burlington Northern mainline. According to EPA EJSCREEN, approximately 6,195 people reside in this area.

Como Avenue, which transects the neighborhood, had a busy streetcar line from the 1890s to 1954, providing its residents access to the Minneapolis/St. Paul city centers. While Southeast Como is surrounded by industry, high-traffic roads, active and abandoned industrial sites, and railroads, the neighborhood itself has a residential character. Southeast Como consists of mostly early 20th-century bungalows and Victorian homes mixed with newer duplexes and single-family homes. Student housing is also available in Southeast Como.

The large public Van Cleve Park is in the southwest part of the neighborhood. In 1890, the park was established as Second Ward Park. In 1895, it was renamed to honor Civil War General Horatio Van Cleve and his wife Charlotte Ouisconsin Van Cleve. In 1969, the park was expanded, and a new community center was constructed. Today, the park includes indoor and outdoor basketball courts, tennis courts, softball fields that turn to ice rinks in the winter, computers for public use, and meeting spaces for community groups.

The Tuttle School building, constructed in 1911, is located just south of East Hennepin Avenue. The school building was used from 1911 to 2007, and today, Minneapolis Public Schools leases it to two charter schools.

Commercial activity is focused on Como and East Hennepin Avenues. From 1930 to 1958, General Mills had its Research Laboratories at 2010 East Hennepin Avenue. Today, commercial businesses include grocers, restaurants, and service shops.

DEMOGRAPHICS

According to the 2016-2020 American Community Survey, or ACS, 6,194 people reside in the Southeast Como neighborhood in 2,215 housing units. Of these, 15 percent were owner-occupied units and 85 percent were rental units. The 2016-2020 racial makeup of the neighborhood was 74 percent white, 14 percent non-Hispanic Asian, 6 percent Hispanic, 3 percent Black, and 2 percent two or more races.

According to the 2016-2020 ACS, 70 percent of Southeast Como residents attained a bachelor's degree or higher, 11 percent were high school graduates, 9 percent had some college but no degree, 6 percent held an associate degree, and 4 percent had less than a 9th-grade education.

80 percent of Southeast Como residents said they speak only English. Of the 20 percent of residents who speak languages other than English, 13 percent said they speak English very well, 6 percent said they speak English well, and 12 percent said they do not speak English well or at all. Languages spoken in households include English (87 percent), Chinese (4 percent), Other Indo-European (2 percent), other/unspecified (2 percent), Spanish (1 percent), Russian, Polish, or other Slavic (1 percent), and Vietnamese (1 percent).

Sources:

EPA EJSCREEN, U.S. Census 2016-2020 ACS

www.secomo.org/neighborhood/

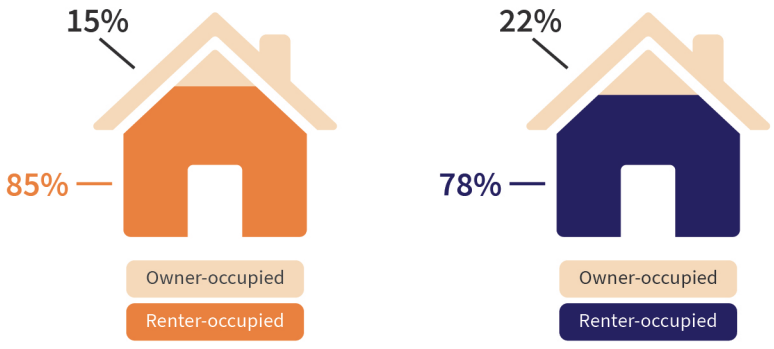
www.sites.google.com/a/comogreenvillage.info/como-history/home/places/van-cleve-park

www.snoobear.org/SECIA/history/index.htm

HOUSEHOLD OCCUPANCY

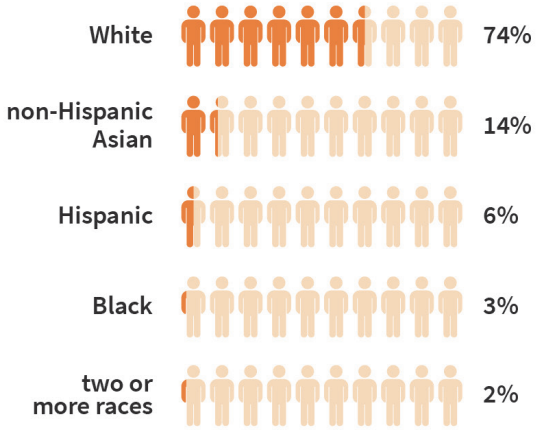
Southeast Como Neighborhood
Residents: 6,194
Housing units: 2,215

Mid-City Industrial Neighborhood
Residents: 241
Housing units: 145

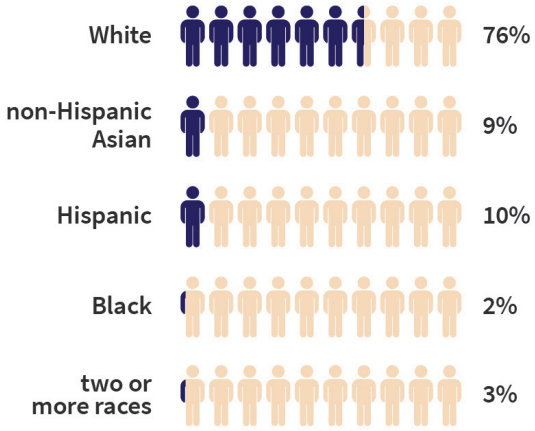


RACE

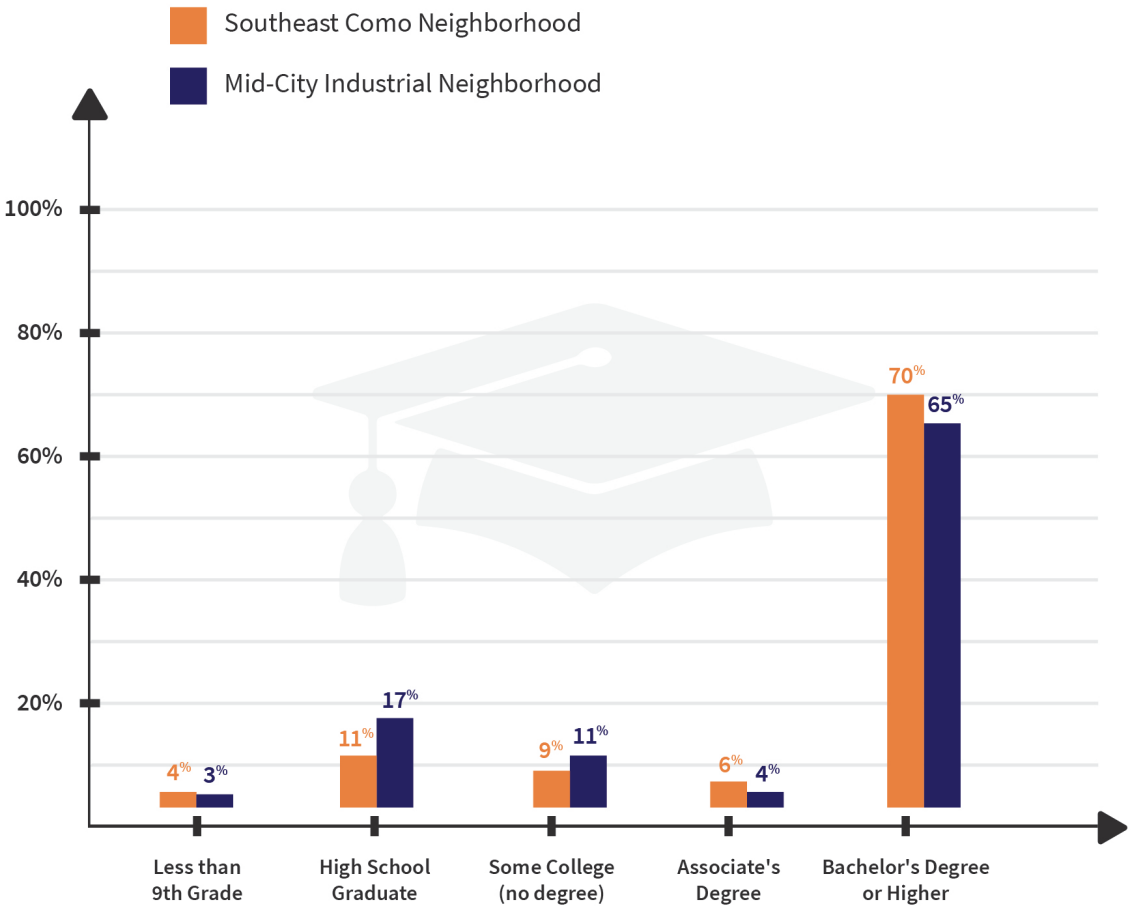
SOUTHEAST COMO NEIGHBORHOOD



MID-CITY INDUSTRIAL NEIGHBORHOOD

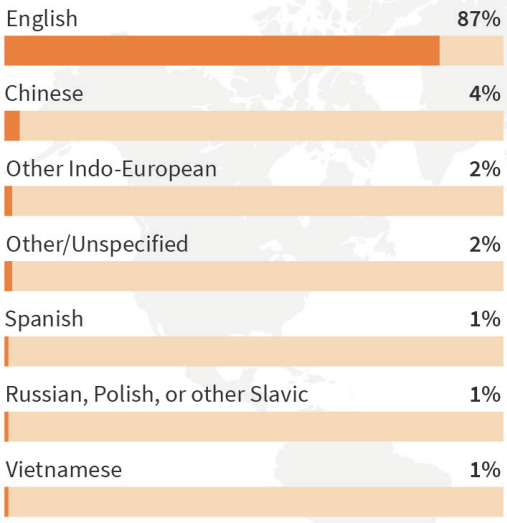


EDUCATION

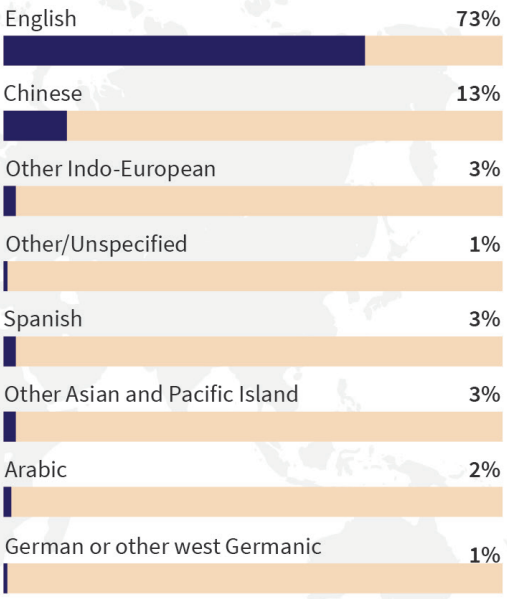


LANGUAGES

SOUTHEAST COMO NEIGHBORHOOD

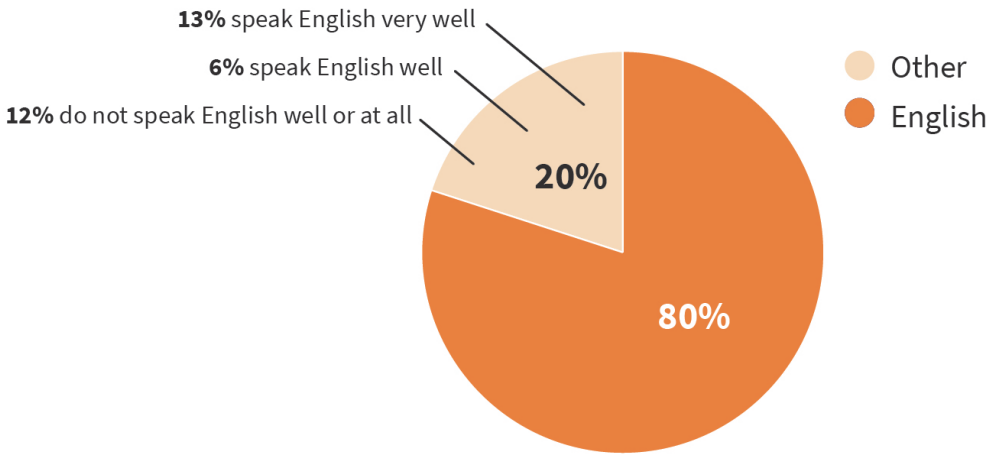


MID-CITY INDUSTRIAL NEIGHBORHOOD

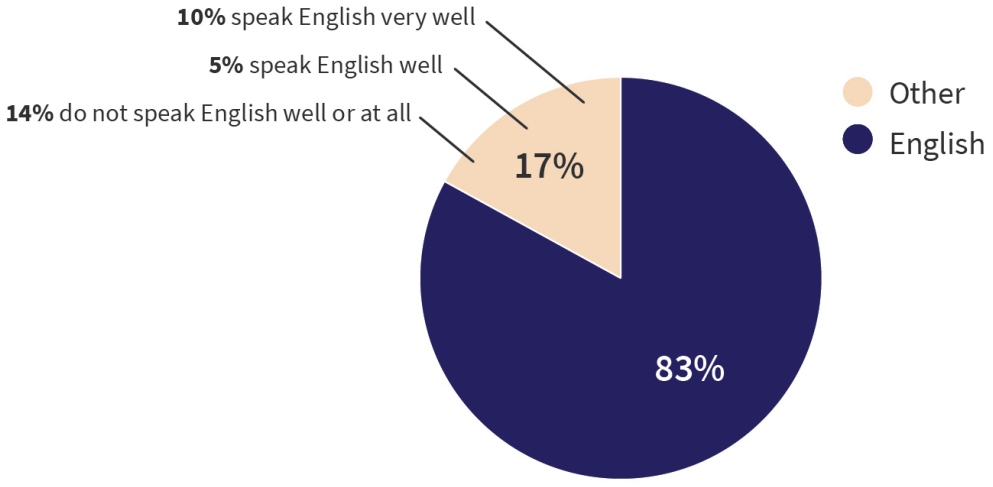


ENGLISH SPEAKING

SOUTHEAST COMO NEIGHBORHOOD

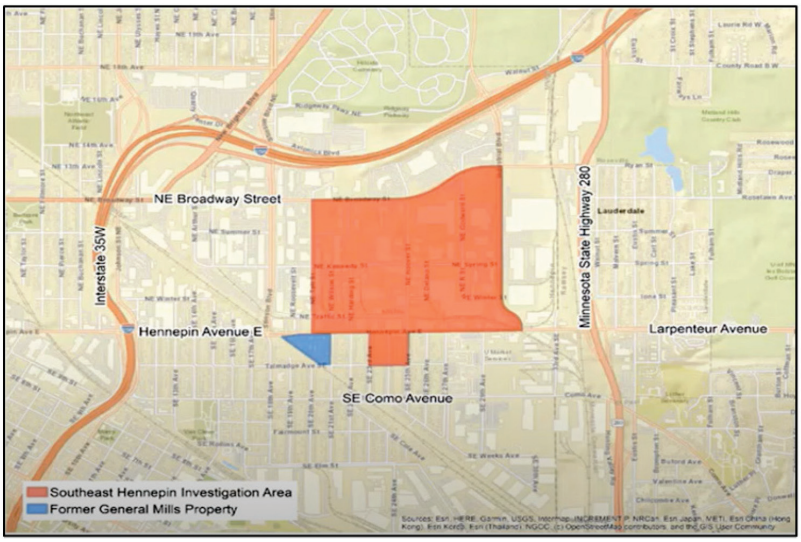


MID-CITY INDUSTRIAL NEIGHBORHOOD



Provides a brief summary of the Highway 100 and County Road 3 Groundwater Plume site.

THE SITES



The perimeter of the Southeast Hennepin site investigation area (larger shaded portion in orange), neighboring the GM/Henkel site (smaller shaded portion in blue).

Southeast Hennepin Area Groundwater & Vapor Site

The site consists of a plume of vapors contaminated with volatile organic compounds, or VOCs, primarily trichloroethylene, or TCE, from several known and unknown sources. The site was identified based on sampling conducted at the General Mills/Henkel Corp. site, which is located immediately southwest and downgradient of the site. A groundwater and vapor plume from the Southeast Hennepin Area Groundwater & Vapor site was found to be migrating toward the General Mills site. The surrounding area has been developed into commercial and industrial operations since the 1930s. Former and current operations include foundry/outdoor motor manufacturing, metal finishing and dry-cleaning operations that may have used VOCs. A gravel pit also operated in the northern portion of the site where suspected disposal occurred until approximately 1977. Residential properties are located along the southern portion of the site and the area south of Hennepin Avenue is predominantly residential homes.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE TO CLEAN UP THE SITE?

Environmental investigations have identified a large VOC vapor and groundwater plume in an area which includes commercial properties, and nearby residential properties. MPCA has managed site contamination for several years under a variety of state programs, both voluntary and enforcement driven, but has been unable to effectuate a comprehensive investigation and clean-up.

On March 17, 2022, EPA finalized the Southeast Hennepin Area Groundwater and Vapor site's placement on the **National Priorities List**, or **NPL**. Placement on the NPL made the site eligible for federal money to investigate and clean up the site under EPA's Superfund program.

General Mills/Henkel Corp. site

The General Mills/Henkel Corp. site is located on East Hennepin Avenue in Minneapolis. General Mills used the area as a food research facility beginning in 1930, and from 1947 to 1977, also used the site for chemical research. Waste disposal operations between 1947 and 1962 contaminated soil and groundwater with hazardous chemicals. The property was purchased by the Henkel Corporation in 1977 and has since been resold. Soil and groundwater cleanup has occurred at the site, and additional work to address the vapor intrusion pathway is nearing completion. Groundwater monitoring continues at the site.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE TO CLEAN UP THE SITE?

Building that housed the pump and treat system on the General Mills site.

The site was being addressed by General Mills, Inc., with MPCA oversight, until it was transferred back to EPA in 2023.

Contaminated soil near a waste disposal pit on the site was removed in the 1980s. In 1984, MPCA and General Mills, Inc., signed an agreement to clean up groundwater contamination at the site. From 1985 to 2010, General Mills operated a groundwater pump and treat system to remove contamination from groundwater. Beginning in 2013, General Mills installed vapor removal systems for several hundred homes that were at risk from indoor air contamination from the vapors.

Through decades of work, MPCA conducted several five-year reviews of the General Mills site's remedy. These reviews evaluate the effectiveness of the remedies put in place to protect public health and the environment, and whether they function as intended by site decision documents. The most recent review, finalized by MPCA in 2021, concluded that:

Groundwater:

- The groundwater remedy is not protective of human health due to the identified vapor intrusion risk to building receptors at the site associated with the shallow groundwater contamination.
- Groundwater contaminant concentrations have also increased since the temporary shutdown of the groundwater pump and treat system in 2010.

Soil:

- The "no further action" remedy for the soils is protective of human health and the environment.

Air (Vapor Intrusion):

- The vapor intrusion exposure pathway has been evaluated.
- Most of the buildings requiring protection now have vapor removal systems; however, there are still buildings that require vapor systems.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT SITE STATUS??

The site's long-term remedy included groundwater pumping to prevent further migration of contaminants and to improve groundwater quality. The groundwater pump and treat system began operating in 1985 and shut down in 2010. It successfully removed several contaminants, but TCE remains in the groundwater.

After more investigation, MPCA found additional sources of groundwater and vapor contamination in an area northeast of the site, now known as the Southeast Hennepin Groundwater & Vapor Superfund site.

MPCA then referred this site to EPA due to the potential impacts, size, scope, and complexity of the two sites as well as the need for further investigation and cleanup.

APPENDICES

Appendix A

GLOSSARY OF TERMS & ACRONYMS

Administrative Record. The body of documents that forms the basis for selection of a particular response at a site. For example, the Administrative Record for remedy selection includes all documents that were considered or relied upon to select the remedy through the Record of Decision.

CAG: See Community Advisory Group.

Community Advisory Group: A Community Advisory Group is made up of representatives of diverse community interests. Its purpose is to provide a public forum for community members to present and discuss their needs and concerns related to the Superfund decision-making process. A CAG can assist EPA in making better decisions on how to clean up a site. It offers EPA a unique opportunity to hear and consider community preferences for site cleanup. However, the existence of a CAG does not eliminate the need for the Agency to keep the community informed about plans and decisions.

CERCLA: See Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act.

CIC: See Community Involvement Coordinator.

CIP: See Community Involvement Plan.

Cleanup: Actions taken to deal with a release, or threat of release, of a hazardous substance that could affect humans and/or the environment. The term "cleanup" is sometimes used interchangeably with "remedial action," "remediation," "removal action," "response action," or "corrective action."

Community: An interacting population of various types of individuals in a common location; a neighborhood or specific area where people live.

Community Engagement: The process of involving locals in all phases of the cleanup process. Communities are asked to provide input on how the cleanup will be conducted and how it may affect community plans and goals. See also Community Involvement.

Community Involvement: The term used by EPA to identify its process for engaging in dialogue and collaboration with communities affected by a Superfund site. EPA's community involvement approach is founded in the belief that people have a right to know what the Agency is doing in their community. Its purpose is to give people the opportunity to become involved in the Agency's activities and to help shape decisions that are made.

Community Involvement Coordinator: The EPA official whose lead responsibility is to involve and inform the public about the Superfund process, in accordance with requirements set forth in the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan.

Community Involvement Plan: A plan that outlines specific community involvement activities that occur during site investigation and cleanup. The CIP outlines how EPA will keep the public informed of work at the site and ways in which residents can review and comment on decisions that may affect actions at the site. The CIP may be modified as necessary to respond to changes in community concerns, information needs, and current activities.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act: A federal law passed in 1980, modified in 1986, by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act. Commonly known as Superfund, CERCLA is intended to protect people's health and the environment by investigating and cleaning up abandoned or uncontrolled hazardous waste sites. Under the program, EPA can either:

- Pay for site cleanup when parties responsible for the contamination cannot be located or are unwilling/unable to do the work; or
- Take legal action to force parties responsible for site contamination to clean up the site or pay back the federal government for the cost of the cleanup.

Contaminant(s): Any physical, chemical, biological, or radiological substance or matter that has an adverse effect on air, water, or soil.

Contamination: The introduction of microorganisms, chemicals, toxic substances, wastes or wastewater in a concentration that makes the medium unfit for its next intended use in water, air and soil. Also applies to surfaces of objects, buildings, and various household use products.

Groundwater: Underground water that fills spaces in soil or between rocks. When groundwater accumulates in significant quantities and quality, it may be used as a source of drinking water.

Hazard Ranking System: A system used by EPA to decide whether a site should be placed on the NPL. The score a site receives from the HRS compares the relative hazards for different sites, considering the impact said site has on groundwater, surface water, and air, as well as the number of people potentially affected by the contamination. Sites receiving a score of 28.5 or greater are proposed for the NPL.

Hazardous Substance(s): Any material that poses a threat to human health and/or the environment. Typical hazardous substances are toxic, corrosive, ignitable, explosive, or chemically reactive. Any substance designated by EPA are to be reported if a designated quantity of the substance is spilled in the waters of the United States or is otherwise released into the environment.

Hazardous Waste: Byproducts that can pose a substantial or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly managed. Hazardous wastes usually possess at least one of four characteristics (ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity or toxicity) or appear on EPA lists.

HRS: See Hazard Ranking System.

Information Repository: A file containing current information, technical reports, and reference documents regarding a site. The information repository is usually kept in a public building convenient for residents, such as a school, town hall, or library.

Institutional Controls: Institutional controls are legal mechanisms for imposing restrictions and conditions on land use.

National Priorities List: EPA's list of serious, uncontrolled, or abandoned hazardous waste sites identified for long-term cleanup under Superfund. The list is based primarily on the score a site receives from the **Hazard Ranking System**, or **HRS**. EPA is required to update the National Priorities List at least once a year.

NPL: See National Priorities List.

Plume: A plume is a mass of contaminants in groundwater or air.

Proposed Plan: A plan for site cleanup that is available to the public for comment.

Public: The community or people in general, or a part of the community grouped together due to common interest or activities.

Public Comment Period(s): A formal opportunity for community members to review and contribute written comments on various EPA documents or actions.

Public Meeting(s): Formal public sessions that are characterized by presentations to the public followed by a question-and-answer session. Formal public meetings may involve the use of a court reporter and the issuance of transcripts. These meetings are required only for the Proposed Plan and Record of Decision amendments.

Record of Decision: A Record of Decision, or ROD, is a legal, technical, and public document that explains which cleanup alternative will be used at a NPL (Superfund) site. The ROD is based on the technical analysis generated during the remedial investigation and feasibility study as well as consideration of public comments and concerns.

Remedial Project Manager: The EPA official who is the technical lead on a long-term remediation project.

ROD: See Record of Decision.

RPM: See Remedial Project Manager.

SARA: See Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act.

Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act: Modifications to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, or CERCLA, enacted on October 17, 1986.

Superfund: The program operated under the legislative authority of CERCLA that funds and carries out EPA solid waste emergency and long-term removal or remedial activities. These activities include establishing the National Priorities List, investigating sites for inclusion on the list, determining their priority, and conducting and/or supervising cleanup and other remedial actions.

TAG: See Technical Assistance Grant.

TASC: See Technical Assistance Services for Communities.

TCE: See Trichloroethylene.

Technical Assistance Grant: This grant provides money for activities that help communities participate in decision making at eligible Superfund sites.

Technical Assistance Services for Communities: This program supplies communities with technical help, so they can better understand the science, regulations and policies of environmental issues and EPA actions.

Trichloroethylene: A chlorinated organic compound also known as TCE, which is a stable, colorless liquid with a low boiling point. TCE is used as an industrial solvent and as a metal degreasing agent. TCE may be toxic when inhaled, ingested or through skin contact and can damage vital organs, especially the liver.

Fact sheet: www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts19.pdf

VOCs: See Volatile Organic Compounds.

Volatile Organic Compounds: Also known as volatile organics or simply volatiles, VOCs are a group of organic compounds that are used in various industrial applications, such as solvents, degreasers, and paint thinners and fuels, which evaporate very rapidly when exposed to air. Due to this tendency, VOCs disappear more rapidly from surface water than groundwater since groundwater does not usually encounter air. VOCs are not easily released and can be present for many years in the groundwater used for drinking. When present in drinking water, VOCs may pose a threat to human health.

Appendix B

Information Repository, Administrative Record,
Website & Public Meetings

LOCAL INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road N
St. Paul, MN 55155

OFFICIAL INFORMATION REPOSITORY

U.S. EPA Region 5
Superfund Records Center
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Room 711, 7th Floor
Ralph Metcalfe Federal Building
Chicago, IL 60604

EPA's Region 5 Records Center is located in its office in Chicago.

POTENTIAL MEETING LOCATION

Van Cleve Recreation Center
901 15th Ave. SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414
612-370-4926
vancleve@minneapolisparks.org
Capacity: 350 people

www.minneapolisparks.org/parks-destinations/recreation_centers_program_facilities/van_cleve_recreation_center/

Appendix C

List of Contacts

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www.ks95.com/contact-us/

AM 950
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Eden Praire, MN 55344
952-946-8885
www.am950radio.com/

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8811 Olson Memorial Hwy.
Minneapolis, MN 55427
763-546-1111
www.kare11.com/

KSTP 5, ABC
3415 University Ave.
Saint Paul, MN 55114-2099
612-588-6397
www.kstp.com/

WCCO-TV 4, CBS
90 S. 11th St.
Minneapolis, MN 55403
612-339-4444
www.cbsnews.com/minnesota/

KMSP 9, FOX
11358 Viking Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55344
952-944-9999
www.fox9.com/

KTCA–TV PBS
Twin Cities Public Television, Inc
172 East 4th St.
Saint Paul, MN 55101
651-222-1717
www.tpt.org/

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University District Alliance
https://government-relations.umn.edu/university-district-alliance

Como Student Community Co-op
https://cscc.umn.edu/

University of Minnesota Housing Office
https://housing.umn.edu/live-here/neighborhoods/options

http://ocl.umn.edu/

Appendix D

Community Engagement and the Superfund Process

Superfund is an environmental cleanup program enabled by a federal law enacted in 1980, known as the **Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act**, or **CERCLA**. In 1986, another law known as the **Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act**, or **SARA**, reauthorized CERCLA to continue Superfund cleanup activities. This law gives EPA the authority to require those parties responsible for creating a **hazardous waste** site to clean up that site, or to reimburse the government if EPA cleans up the site. EPA compels responsible parties to clean up hazardous waste sites through administrative orders, consent decrees and other legal settlements. EPA is authorized to enforce the Superfund law within all 50 states, U.S. territories and tribal nations. Superfund site identification, monitoring and response activities are coordinated with state, tribal and territorial environmental protection or waste management agencies.

There are several steps involved in cleaning up a contaminated site. Once EPA has been made aware of a contaminated site from citizens, local, tribal, or state agencies, EPA follows a step-by-step process (see Page 20) to determine the best way to clean up the site and protect human health and the environment.

If the site poses an immediate threat to public health or the environment, EPA can intervene with an emergency response action. The goal of EPA's Emergency Response and Removal Program is to protect the public and environment from immediate threats posed by the release or discharge of **hazardous substances.**

The Superfund program encourages active dialogue between communities affected by the release of hazardous substances and all the agencies responsible for overseeing cleanup actions. EPA considers community involvement to be an important part of the Superfund program and therefore, opportunities for community involvement occur throughout the process. At each step in the process, there are opportunities for various levels of community engagement.

Additional EPA Websites

Superfund:
www.epa.gov/superfund

Cleanup Process:
www.epa.gov/superfund/cleaning-superfund-sites

Community Involvement:
www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-community-involvement

Appendix E

FACT SHEETS

CONTAMINANTS OF CONCERN:

Trichloroethylene (TCE)

VAPOR INTRUSION

What You Should Know About Vapor Intrusion

EPA:

National Priorities Placement Paves the Way for Investigation
Update on Hennepin Area Superfund Sites
EPA Would Like to Meet With You

Trichloroethylene - ToxFAQs™

CAS # 79-01-6

This fact sheet answers the most frequently asked health questions (FAQs) about trichloroethylene. For more information, call the ATSDR Information Center at 1-800-232-4636. This fact sheet is one in a series of summaries about hazardous substances and their health effects. It is important you understand this information because this substance may harm you. The effects of exposure to any hazardous substance depend on the dose, the duration, how you are exposed, personal traits and habits, and whether other chemicals are present.

HIGHLIGHTS: Trichloroethylene is used as a solvent for cleaning metal parts. Exposure to very high concentrations of trichloroethylene can cause dizziness headaches, sleepiness, incoordination, confusion, nausea, unconsciousness, and even death. Trichloroethylene has been found in at least 1,051 of the 1,854 National Priorities List sites identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

What is trichloroethylene?

Trichloroethylene is a colorless, volatile liquid. Liquid trichloroethylene evaporates quickly into the air. It is nonflammable and has a sweet odor.

The two major uses of trichloroethylene are as a solvent to remove grease from metal parts and as a chemical that is used to make other chemicals, especially the refrigerant, HFC-134a.

What happens to trichloroethylene when it enters the environment?

- Trichloroethylene can be released to air, water, and soil at places where it is produced or used.
- Trichloroethylene is broken down quickly in air.
- Trichloroethylene breaks down very slowly in soil and water and is removed mostly through evaporation to air.
- It is expected to remain in groundwater for long time since it is not able to evaporate.
- Trichloroethylene does not build up significantly in plants or animals.

How might I be exposed to trichloroethylene?

- Breathing trichloroethylene in contaminated air.
- Drinking contaminated water.
- Workers at facilities using this substance for metal degreasing are exposed to higher levels of trichloroethylene.
- If you live near such a facility or near a hazardous waste site containing trichloroethylene, you may also have higher exposure to this substance.

How can trichloroethylene affect my health?

Trichloroethylene was once used as an anesthetic for surgery. Exposure to moderate amounts of trichloroethylene may cause headaches, dizziness, and sleepiness; large amounts may cause coma and even death. Eating or breathing high levels of trichloroethylene may damage some of the nerves in the face. Exposure to high levels can also result in changes in the rhythm of the heartbeat, liver damage, and evidence of kidney damage. Skin contact with concentrated solutions of trichloroethylene can cause skin rashes. There is some evidence exposure to trichloroethylene in the work place may cause scleroderma (a systemic autoimmune disease) in some people. Some men occupationally-exposed to trichloroethylene and other chemicals showed decreases in sex drive, sperm quality, and reproductive hormone levels.

How likely is trichloroethylene to cause cancer?

There is strong evidence that trichloroethylene can cause kidney cancer in people and some evidence for trichloroethylene-induced liver cancer and malignant lymphoma. Lifetime exposure to trichloroethylene resulted in increased liver cancer in mice and increased kidney cancer and testicular cancer in rats.

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) considers trichloroethylene to be a known human carcinogen. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classified trichloroethylene as carcinogenic to humans. The EPA has characterized trichloroethylene as carcinogenic to humans by all routes of exposure.

Trichloroethylene

CAS # 79-01-6

How can trichloroethylene affect children?

It is not known whether children are more susceptible than adults to the effects of trichloroethylene.

Some human studies indicate that trichloroethylene may cause developmental effects such as spontaneous abortion, congenital heart defects, central nervous system defects, and small birth weight. However, these people were exposed to other chemicals as well.

In some animal studies, exposure to trichloroethylene during development caused decreases in body weight, increases in heart defects, changes to the developing nervous system, and effects on the immune system.

How can families reduce the risk of exposure to trichloroethylene?

- Avoid drinking water from sources that are known to be contaminated with trichloroethylene. Use bottled water if you have concerns about the presence of chemicals in your tap water. You may also contact local drinking water authorities and follow their advice.
- Prevent children from playing in dirt or eating dirt if you live near a waste site that has trichloroethylene.
- Trichloroethylene is used in many industrial products. Follow instructions on product labels to minimize exposure to trichloroethylene.

Is there a medical test to determine whether I've been exposed to trichloroethylene?

Trichloroethylene and its breakdown products (metabolites) can be measured in blood and urine. However, the detection of trichloroethylene or its metabolites cannot predict the kind of health effects that might develop from that exposure. Because trichloroethylene and its metabolites leave the body fairly rapidly, the tests need to be conducted within days after exposure.

Has the federal government made recommendations to protect human health?

The EPA set a maximum contaminant goal (MCL) of 0.005 milligrams per liter (mg/L; 5 ppb) as a national primary drinking standard for trichloroethylene.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) set a permissible exposure limit (PEL) of 100 ppm for trichloroethylene in air averaged over an 8-hour work day, an acceptable ceiling concentration of 200 ppm provided the 8 hour PEL is not exceeded, and an acceptable maximum peak of 300 ppm for a maximum duration of 5 minutes in any 2 hours.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) considers trichloroethylene to be a potential occupational carcinogen and established a recommended exposure limit (REL) of 2 ppm (as a 60-minute ceiling) during its use as an anesthetic agent and 25 ppm (as a 10-hour TWA) during all other exposures.

Reference

This ToxFAQs™ information is taken from the 2019 Toxicological Profile for Trichloroethylene produced by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Public Health Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service in Atlanta, GA.

Where can I get more information?

For more information, contact the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Division of Toxicology and Human Health Sciences, 1600 Clifton Road NE, Mailstop F-57, Atlanta, GA 30329-4027.

Phone: 1-800-232-4636

ToxFAQs™ on the web: www.atsdr.cdc.gov/ToxFAQs

ATSDR can tell you where to find occupational and environmental health clinics. Their specialists can recognize, evaluate, and treat illnesses resulting from exposure to hazardous substances. You can also contact your community or state health or environmental quality department if you have any more questions or concerns.

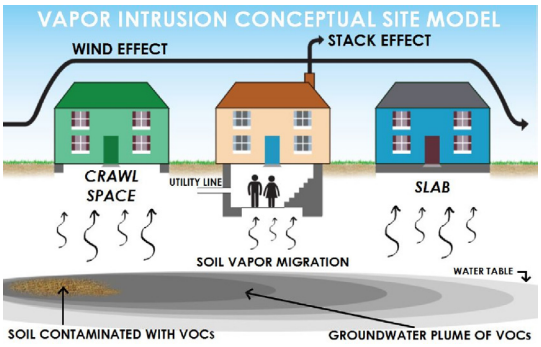
United States Environmental Protection Agency

What You Should Know About Vapor Intrusion

EPA has developed this fact sheet to answer some of the most commonly asked questions about an important health issue called vapor intrusion. Vapors and gases from contaminated groundwater and soil have the potential to seep into indoor spaces and cause health problems.

What is vapor intrusion?

When chemicals or petroleum products are spilled on the ground or leak from underground storage tanks, they can give off gases, or vapors that can get inside buildings. Common products that can cause vapor intrusion are gasoline or diesel fuel, dry cleaning solvents and industrial de-greasers. The vapors move through the soil and seep through cracks in basements, foundations, sewer lines and other openings. Vapor intrusion is a concern because vapors can build up to a point where the health of residents or workers in those buildings could be at risk. Some vapors such as those associated with petroleum products have a gasoline odor, others are odor-free.



Can vapors in my home come from household sources?

Common household products can be a source of indoor air problems. Vapors and gases can come from: paints; paint strippers or thinners; moth balls; new carpeting and furniture; stored fuel; air fresheners; cleaning products; dry cleaned clothing and even cigarette smoke.

What are the health concerns related to vapor intrusion?

When vapor intrusion does occur, the health risk will vary based on the type of chemicals, the levels of the chemical found, the length of exposure and the health of exposed individuals. Some people may experience eye and respiratory irritation, headaches and/or nausea. These symptoms are temporary and should go away when the vapors are addressed. Low-level chemical exposures over many years may raise the lifetime risk of cancer or chronic disease.

How is vapor intrusion discovered?

Samples of gas in the soil or groundwater are first collected near a contaminated site. If no contamination is found near a site, then vapor intrusion should not be a problem. If contamination is found, depending on the type, the search may be widened to include samples closer to or on individual properties. The next step is to take vapor samples from the soil under the home's foundation; these are called slab, or sub-slab samples. EPA does not generally recommend indoor air sampling before slab or sub-slab sampling, because indoor air quality varies widely day to day. Also, household products may interfere with sampling results.

What happens if a problem is found?

The most common solution is to install systems often used to reduce naturally occurring radon that seeps into homes in some geographic areas. These systems, called radon mitigation systems, remove soil vapors from below basements or foundations before they enter homes. Vapors are vented outside of the homes where they become dispersed and harmless. These systems use minimal electricity and do not affect heating and cooling efficiency. They also prevent radon from entering homes – an added health benefit especially in radon prone areas. Once the source of the vapors is eliminated, the systems should no longer be needed.

Vapor Intrusion: Tightly seal common household products after use and seal them in an area that is well ventilated to avoid the release of vapors

What can I do to improve indoor air quality?

- Don't buy more chemicals than you need.
- Store unused chemicals in appropriate tightly-sealed containers.
- Don't make your home too air tight. Fresh air helps prevent chemical build-up and mold growth.
- Fix all leaks promptly, as well as other moisture problems that encourage mold.
- Check all appliances and fireplaces annually.
- Test your home for radon. Test kits are available at hardware and home improvement stores or you can call the Radon Hotline at 800-458-1158 in New York State, or 800-648-0394 in New Jersey.
- Install carbon monoxide detectors in your home. They are available at hardware and home improvement stores.

Sub-slab mitigation system: This system draws radon and other vapors out of the soil and vents them outside

For more information:

- For health related questions regarding vapor intrusion, contact your local health department or the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry at: 1-888-422-8737 or visit their Web site at www.atdsr.cdc.gov

- For more detailed information on EPA's vapor intrusion sampling, visit the EPA's Web site at: www.epa.gov/vaporintrusion

- For more information on indoor air quality, visit EPA's Web site at: www.epa.gov/learn-issues/learn-about-air

EPA
United States
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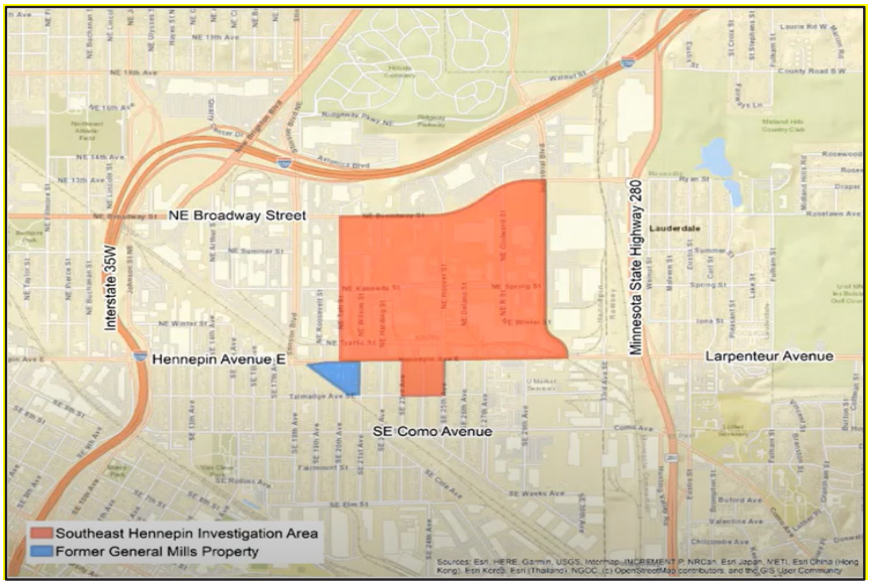
National Priorities List Placement Paves the Way for Investigation

SE Hennepin Area Groundwater and Vapor Superfund Site
Minneapolis, Minnesota March 2022



Perimeter of Southeast Hennepin investigation area (larger shaded area) and perimeter of neighboring General Mills Superfund site (smaller shaded area).

On March 17, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency finalized the Southeast Hennepin Area Groundwater and Vapor site's placement on the National Priorities List, or NPL, due to vapor intrusion concerns (*see explanation of vapor intrusion on page 3*). Placement on the NPL makes the site eligible for federal money to investigate and clean up the site under EPA's Superfund program. Over the next year, EPA will conduct a search for potentially responsible parties and develop the workplan for the site investigation, which are the first steps in the Superfund process. The workplan, expected in 2023, will include the following components:

- A site management plan that describes how activities at the site during the investigation will be managed including access, security, contingency procedures, responsibilities, storage and disposal of investigation-derived waste and other procedures to be followed in the field.
- A sampling and analysis plan that defines how and what types of sampling will be done.
- A quality assurance plan that describes the quality assurance and quality control protocols and objectives, methods, and procedures to be followed during the investigation.
- A health and safety plan that defines procedures and precautions to be taken to ensure the safety of the workers and community during the investigation.
- A data management plan that describes how data will be managed throughout the investigation.

Contact EPA

For more information about the site, contact one of these team members:

Kirstin Safakas
Community Involvement Coordinator
312-919-4621
safakas.kirstin@epa.gov

Emmie McCleary
Remedial Project Manager
312-886-9484
mccleary.emily@epa.gov

You may also call EPA's Chicago office toll-free at 800-621-8431, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

For more information

To learn about the EPA Superfund program, visit https://www.epa.gov/superfund.

To find more details about the site, visit its EPA webpage at https://bit.ly/3tZIh1g.

Documents, reports, and other information about the site can also be found at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's office, 520 Lafayette Road N, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55155, or at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/waste/minneapolis-se-hennepin-area-groundwater-and-vapor-site.

Long-term investigation

Once the workplan is approved, EPA will start its long-term investigation at the site, which is expected to begin in 2023. EPA will sample soil, groundwater (water underground), surface water, sediment (mud) and air to determine the area and amount of contamination present. The Agency will also define ways people may come into contact with the contamination. This investigation is expected to take between 12 to 18 months.

After the investigation is complete, EPA will publish a remedial investigation report detailing the findings of the investigation. A risk assessment report explaining the risks to people and the environment posed by the site will also be completed. All reports will be available at EPA's office and will also be placed on EPA's webpage (*see front page sidebar*).

Study of cleanup alternatives

Based on the findings of the investigation mentioned above, strategies to clean up or resolve any contamination concerns will be identified and presented in a feasibility study report. EPA will then develop a proposed plan to recommend the option that the Agency has determined to be the most effective strategy for cleanup. After the release of this plan, the community will have an opportunity to comment on EPA's recommended alternative, as well as all the other alternatives that were considered. Although many factors could affect the project schedule, EPA anticipates the proposed plan to be ready for comment in 2026. At that time, EPA will notify community members of the availability of the plan and provide the community with a summary.

EPA will also hold a public meeting around this time to explain the plan to the community and answer any questions people may have. During this meeting, people will be given an opportunity to ask questions and provide comment on the proposed plan, although comments will also be accepted via mail and email. EPA will review and evaluate the comments and select the final cleanup plan for the site, then notifying the community of the final cleanup selection.

EPA will then begin designing the cleanup of the site, which generally takes about 12 to 18 months. Subsequent implementation of the cleanup can take several years, even decades, depending on the cleanup plan selected. If at any time during this process EPA determines the site poses an immediate threat to people or the environment, the Agency will take immediate action to eliminate any hazards.

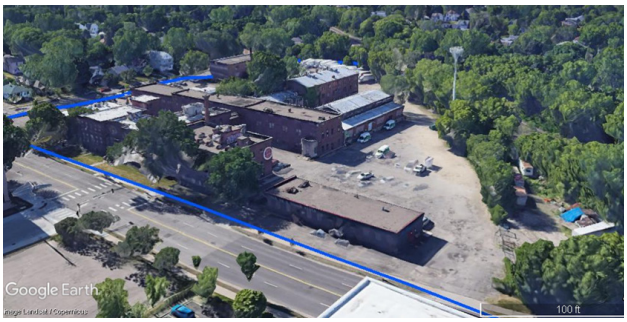
Background

The Southeast Hennepin Area Groundwater and Vapor site consists of an area of groundwater contaminated with various volatile organic compounds, or VOCs, including trichloroethylene, or TCE, from several known and unknown sources. These VOCs have gotten into the ground and created an area of vapor contamination in the

Information on the neighboring General Mills/Henkel Corp. Superfund Site

The neighboring General Mills/Henkel Corp. Superfund site is located on East Hennepin Avenue in Minneapolis. General Mills used the area as a food research facility beginning in 1930, and from 1947 to 1977, and also used the site for chemical research. Waste disposal operations between 1947 and 1962 contaminated soil and groundwater with hazardous chemicals. The property was purchased by the Henkel Corp. in 1977 and has since been resold.

Soil and groundwater cleanup has occurred at the site, and additional work to address the vapor intrusion pathway is nearing completion. Most of the buildings requiring protection now have vapor mitigation systems; however, there are still buildings that require mitigation. Vapor mitigation systems either actively or passively remove vapors from a building. Groundwater monitoring continues at the site; it is addressed by General Mills, Inc. with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency oversight.



Partial aerial view from East Hennepin Avenue.

Ways to get involved

A Community Advisory Group, or CAG, may be convened for this site, if requested, to provide a public forum for community members to present and discuss their needs and concerns related to the Superfund decision-making process. CAGs can assist EPA in making better decisions on how to clean up a site and offers EPA a unique opportunity to hear community preferences for site cleanup and redevelopment. Information about CAGs can be found at www.epa.gov/superfund/community-advisory-groups.

If you are interested in helping form a CAG for the Southeast Hennepin Area Groundwater and Vapor Superfund site and/or be put on the site's mailing list, please contact Kirstin Safakas, the site's Community Involvement Coordinator, at safakas.kirstin@epa.gov. You may also stay up to date via EPA's webpage (*see front page sidebar*).

soil, also known as a plume. The contaminants were first identified when a groundwater and vapor plume was found to be migrating towards the neighboring General Mills/Henkel Corp. Superfund site. The area has developed around commercial and industrial operations since the 1930s. Former and current operations that may have used VOCs include potential dumping at a former gravel pit, foundry and outdoor motor manufacturing, metal finishing, and dry-cleaning. Residential properties are located along the southern portion of the site.

Minnesota referred the site to the EPA due to the potential impacts, size, scope and complexity of the site and the need for further investigation and cleanup. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency had managed site contamination for several years under a variety of state programs, both voluntary and enforcement driven, but had been unable to effectuate a comprehensive investigation and cleanup. Several facilities in the study are still in the state's voluntary cleanup program.

Vapor Intrusion

When chemicals or petroleum products spill or leak into the ground, they may give off gases or vapors that can get inside buildings, such as homes. The vapors can move through the soil and seep through cracks in basements or foundations, sewer lines and other openings. Common products that may cause vapor intrusion are gasoline or diesel fuel, dry cleaning solvents and industrial degreasers.

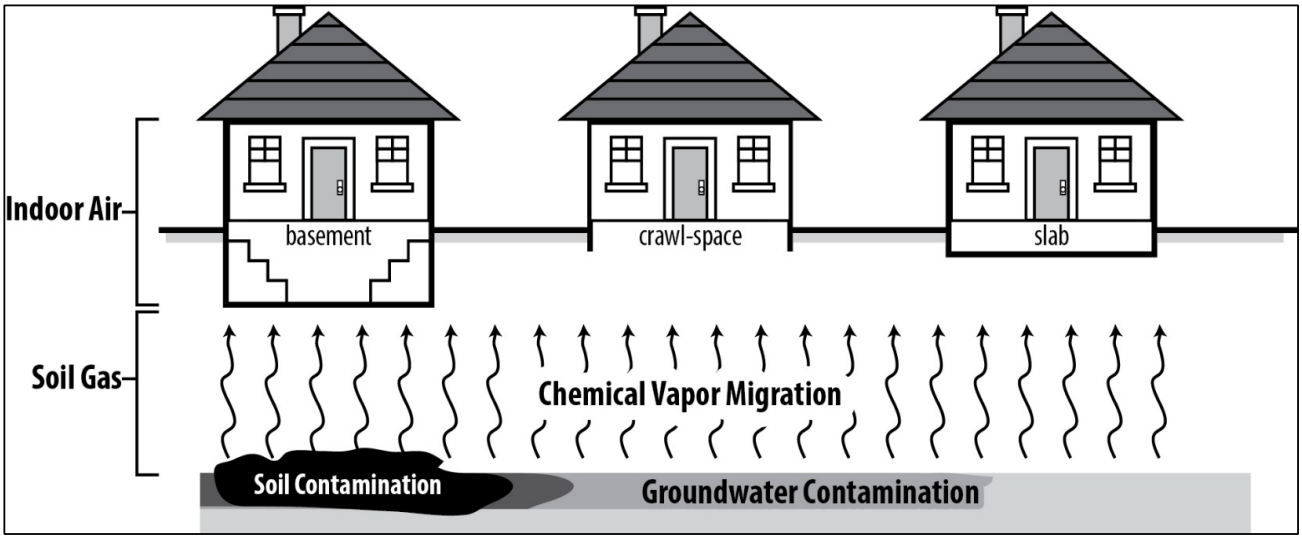
Some vapors have a gasoline odor, and others are odorless and tasteless, such as tetrachloroethylene, or PCE, and TCE. At the Southeast Hennepin Area Groundwater and Vapor Superfund site, TCE is the primary VOC found within the plume.

Vapor intrusion is a concern because vapors can build up to a point where the health of residents or workers may be at risk. Health risks vary based on the type and amount of chemicals, although how healthy you are and how long you are exposed are also factors. Until these vapors are vented from the indoor air, some people may experience symptoms that could include eye and respiratory irritation, headaches or nausea. Low-level chemical exposures over many years, however, may lead to chronic disease, including cancer. Long-term exposures are especially dangerous for children, pregnant women or people with underlying health conditions.

In future investigations of the Southeast Hennepin Area Groundwater and Vapor site, EPA may need permission to conduct air sampling on your property if it is within the site boundaries. This sampling will help to determine if vapor intrusion is occurring.

If you have specific questions on how vapor intrusion may impact your family's health, contact your local health department, or the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, or ATSDR, at 888-422-8737, or visit www.atsdr.cdc.gov.

For more detailed information on vapor intrusion, visit https://www.epa.gov/vaporintrusion. You may also call the EPA Indoor Air Quality Information hotline at 800-438-4318.



This diagram shows how vapors can rise through the soil and into your home.

United States
Environmental Protection
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Region 5
Community Involvement and
Outreach Section (RE-19J)
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

SE Hennepin Area Groundwater and Vapor Superfund Site: NPL Placement Paves the Way for Investigation

EPA Technical Assistance Grants

EPA's cleanup decisions depend on several different things, including what studies say about site conditions, the type of contamination found, and the cleanup methods that would work at a particular site. A technical advisor can help community members participate in decision making by helping them better understand what is going on at the site. EPA's Technical Assistance Grant, or TAG, program provides money to community groups to pay for these technical advisors to interpret and explain technical reports, site conditions, and EPA's proposed cleanup proposals and decisions. Initially, EPA will award a TAG for up to $50,000, but additional funds may be available as years progress.

EPA encourages applications from groups that are interested in becoming more involved in the decision-making process for a nearby Superfund site but need help understanding the technical issues. Your group may apply for a TAG if your members' health, economic well-being, or enjoyment of the environment is, or may be, hurt by a Superfund site. Note that your group will need to be incorporated as a state nonprofit to be eligible. Municipalities or other government agencies are not eligible to receive TAGs, however, government officials may belong to a community group requesting a TAG.

There can be only one TAG awarded at a time for a Superfund site. To get a TAG, your group must contribute a matching share of at least 20 percent to the project. Note, though, that this match usually is not difficult to provide—most groups make their match by donating volunteer hours and other "in-kind" services. TAGs cannot be used to duplicate field or laboratory work. They may only be used to understand or interpret existing documents and activities conducted at the site.

The Southeast Hennepin Groundwater and Vapor Superfund site is in the very early stages of the Superfund process, and a TAG may not yet be useful. However, the process for obtaining a TAG is complex and this early stage may be a good time to learn more about the program. For more information about the EPA TAG program, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-grant-tag-program.

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Update on Hennepin-Area Superfund Sites

Southeast Hennepin Area Groundwater & Vapor Superfund Site
General Mills/Henkel Corp. Superfund Site
Minneapolis, Minnesota November 2022

Attend a Training & Meet the Team

U.S. EPA and its state and local partners are hosting a Superfund 101 training, followed by an open house, on **Wednesday**, **December 14,** starting at **4:30 p.m.** Come for one, stay for both!

Van Cleve Recreation Center Gym
901 15th Ave. S.E.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414

Superfund 101 from **4:30-6:30 p.m.**
Open House from **6:30-8:30 p.m.**

Learn More

To learn more about the sites, use your smartphone's camera scan function to follow the QR codes or visit the links beneath:

www.epa.gov/superfund/SEHennepinGroundwater

www.epa.gov/superfund/general-mills-henkel

Contact Us

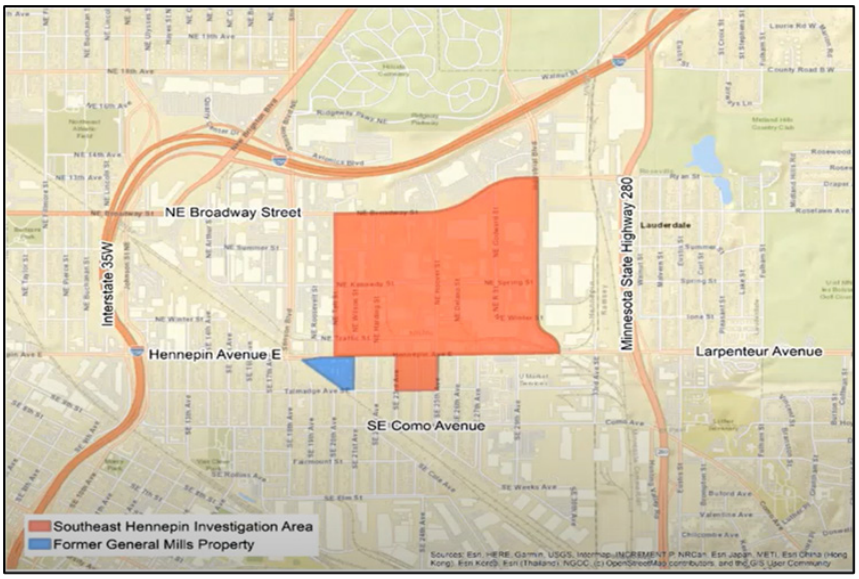
For technical questions:

Andrew Kleist
EPA Project Manager
kleist.andrew@epa.gov
920-401-1816

For general questions:

Kirstin Safakas
EPA Community Liaison
safakas.kirstin@epa.gov
312-919-4621

To request this fact sheet in another language, please contact Kirstin Safakas.



The perimeter of the Southeast Hennepin site investigation area (larger shaded portion in orange), neighboring the GM/Henkel site (smaller shaded portion in blue).

Southeast Hennepin Area Groundwater and Vapor Site

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency placed the Southeast Hennepin Area Groundwater and Vapor Superfund site on the National Priorities "Superfund" List, or NPL, in March of this year. Since then, the Agency has begun its search for potentially responsible parties and is developing a workplan for the site's investigation. During this investigation, which is expected to take approximately 18 months, EPA will sample soil, groundwater (water underground), surface water, sediment (mud), and indoor and outdoor air, to determine the nature and extent of the site's contamination.

General Mills/Henkel Corp. Site

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, or MPCA, has provided oversight for the General Mills/Henkel Corp. Superfund site since 1984. In October 2022, MPCA formally requested the transfer of oversight responsibilities to EPA. This transfer was requested due to many reasons: the proximity of this site to the Southeast Hennepin Area Groundwater and Vapor Superfund site, which EPA manages; the possibility that the contaminant plumes of both sites currently overlap or may in the future; the primary contaminant of concern at both Superfund sites is trichloroethylene, or TCE; and one agency managing both sites is more efficient, straightforward, and cost-effective.

Although EPA will be overseeing site cleanup and maintenance in the future, MPCA will continue to partner with the Agency and its local partners to provide technical support, including communicating with the community and its stakeholders regarding site milestones.

U.S. EPA invites you to meet the team for…

Southeast Hennepin Area Groundwater & Vapor Superfund site
and the
General Mills/Henkel Corp. Superfund site

Join EPA and its state and local partners at a Superfund 101 training, followed by an open house, on **Wednesday**, **December 14**, starting at **4:30 p.m.** Learn about the federal Superfund process from start to finish and get your questions answered by the site team. Come for one, stay for both! Please note that local COVID-19 protocols will be followed during the event, which are subject to change without notice.

Van Cleve Recreation Center Gym
901 15th Ave. S.E.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414

Superfund 101 from **4:30 - 6:30 p.m.**
Open House from **6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

This location has parking on-site and is wheelchair accessible. If you require specific accommodations or have questions about this event, please contact EPA Community Liaison Kirstin Safakas at 312-886-7472 or safakas.kirstin@epa.gov. We look forward to seeing you!

Southeast Hennepin & General Mills/Henkel Corp.: Update on Hennepin-Area Superfund Sites

United States
Environmental Protection
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Region 5
Community Involvement and
Outreach Section (RE-19J)
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

EPA Would Like to Meet With You!

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency representatives would like to speak with you about two nearby sites: the Southeast Hennepin Area Groundwater and Vapor Superfund site and the General Mills/Henkel Corp. Superfund site. Although the two sites are in different stages of the Superfund cleanup process, the agency is continuing to work with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, or MPCA, in overseeing work, and remains committed to keeping the public up to date as each site is cleaned up.

Part of EPA's oversight includes engaging with local residents to listen and learn about the needs of the surrounding community. The agency looks to build trusting relationships with community members through private one-on-one conversations, used to then build a Community Involvement Plan, or CIP. The plan is the communication strategy guide EPA uses to continue meaningful community involvement throughout a Superfund site's lifecycle.

Kirstin Safakas, EPA Public Liaison, Danielle Kaufman, EPA Public Liaison, and Andrew Kleist, EPA Remedial Project Manager, will be available to meet with you either *in person* or via the *Zoom* platform from **March 28 to 30**, at the **Arvonne Fraser Public Library**, located at **1222 4th Street SE**, **Minneapolis**. During casual 30-minute appointments, EPA staff will ask questions to help us understand your concerns about ongoing investigations. Please note that, if needed, the agency is happy to assist you with language translation during these discussions. Contact one of EPA's Public Liaisons (information below) to request this service.

If you would like to schedule a time to meet with U.S. EPA, please contact Meg Moosa, EPA contractor, at 440-688-4006 or meg.moosa@tetratech.com. You may also contact Kirstin Safakas (SE Hennepin) directly at 312-919-4621 or safakas.kirstin@epa.gov or Danielle Kaufman (GM/Henkel Corp.) directly at 312-886-6703 or kaufman.danielle@epa.gov. For more information, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/SEHennepinGroundwater or www.epa.gov/superfund/general-mills-henkel. We look forward to meeting and learning from you!