

INVEST IN HEALTHY & SAFE DRINKING WATER

PFAS TREATMENT AND WATER LINES



ABOUT PFAS IN HASTINGS

Public health and safety are top priorities for City of Hastings leaders, as they work to identify the best ways to treat "forever chemicals" that are present in all six city wells. The City of Hastings is located 20 miles south of St. Paul and serves approximately 23,000 people with drinking water. It is in one of the largest drinking water supply management areas in the state at nearly 61,000 acres, which puts the large area at high vulnerability for widespread contamination. An emerging contaminant for Hastings is PFAS (specifically PFOA and PFOS). With anticipated 2024 EPA limits, all six wells will exceed safe drinking levels due to PFAS. These chemicals are found in a number of products, can accumulate in the body and can lead to cancer, reproductive, heart and other organ and immunological effects. Additionally, nitrates have been a long-standing concern in the Hastings water supply, and the city currently has one treatment plant for two wells only. Adding nitrate treatment to this project is cost effective.

HEALTH & SAFETY NEEDS: \$68.9 M

The City of Hastings requests \$68.9 M in state funds for design and construction of three water treatment plants to remove PFAS and nitrates from municipal drinking water. Additionally, the scope of the project includes delivering safe water to the Hastings Veterans Home.

State Request: \$68.9 M

Three Water Treatment Plants and Multiple Water Lines

- Seeking funds for three decentralized water treatment plants strategically placed to eliminate the need for land acquisition and utilize existing infrastructure. Each plant would use GAC (granular activated carbon) treatment for PFAS removal and ion exchange for nitrate removal to address the water chemistry of each well connection. Three plants will allow for system redundancy if issues occur in any one of them. Some water main extensions will be needed to deliver treated water. The project will also interconnect the Hastings Veterans Home.
- Without funding, Hastings water rates would double in two years and triple in four years, making the City of Hastings water rates the highest in the entire metropolitan area. And it has the potential to degrade the City's AA+ bond rating, which would impact the cost of all city infrastructure projects for years to come.
- The State has the ability to recover funds expended for pollution remediation under State statute, and has examples of having done so in the past. Investigations with the MPCA specific to the Hastings area are currently ongoing and showing promise.

City of Hastings Contributions:

- Completed feasibility study
- Land value \$230K, plus saving time and cost of land acquisition
- \$3.2M grant to design water treatment plants
- Continue to pursue other capital grants
- Additional \$1M annually for operation and maintenance. Note that the State has committed to covering 20 years O&M of PFAS removal for other municipal water systems.

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Proposed treatment plant



GAC treatment vessels to treat PFAS



TIMING AND ACTION TO DATE

The city plans to phase in construction of the three plants, with one plant each year, starting in 2024 and ending in 2027. Funding is needed now to avoid further delays in delivering safe drinking water to residents and businesses and to comply with new EPA limits.

In anticipation of new EPA limits, the city has taken the following steps:

- Hired WSB to undertake a feasibility study to consider alternatives and to develop a project scope and cost estimate. The study has been approved by the Minnesota Department of Health.
- Submitted to the state's Drinking Water Revolving Fund Project Priority List in spring 2023 and Intended Use Plan in 2024.
- Received \$3.2 million PFAS Planning Grant through MPCA for design work and bidding for construction.
- Worked with MPCA to conduct a Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) to identify potential sources and locations of PFAS contributing to groundwater contamination. A Phase 2 ESA has begun. HQ-115 has been detected in Hastings Well #5.
- The MPCA has requested 3M Company to investigate and model groundwater in the Hastings vicinity. The investigative workplan continues into spring 2024.
- Met with elected officials, including Senator Judy Seeberger and Rep. Shane Hudella, who have indicated support and introduced SF 3161 and HF 3115.

Hastings Veterans Home

The Hastings Veterans Home owns and operates their own water system that has PFAS contaminants in its water supply exceeding the pending EPA limits, which will require mitigation. With successful funding of the PFAS Treatment for the City of Hastings, the city would interconnect the city's water supply to the Vets Home to efficiently deliver safe drinking water for its residents and employees.

