



City of Oakdale, Minnesota

-established 1974-

Office of the Mayor

1584 Hadley Avenue North
(651) 777-2428 (days)

Oakdale, MN 55128
(651) 731-8254 (evening)

August 2005

Dear Oakdale Citizen:

I wanted to take this opportunity to update you with respect to our water. First of all, I want to make certain that you are aware that the city continues to conduct testing of our water on a monthly basis. Since you last received correspondence from the city on this matter, we have made significant progress in addressing this situation, which I will describe below.

If you recall, beginning in late 2004 and through 2005, 3M, the Minnesota Department of Health, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency conducted tests of municipal drinking water in Oakdale and several area communities. In Oakdale, the municipal tests detected the presence of PFOS/PFOA at levels generally below the Department of Health health-based values. Since that time, levels have consistently been below those recommended by the Department of Health with respect to human safety; we are experiencing one well with levels moving up a tick and have subsequently designed that well as a back-up at this point.

I'm writing to you at this time to announce that the city has reached an historic agreement with 3M to provide a filtration system at our well with the highest levels. Our agreement is basically as follows:

- a. 3M will design, construct, and operate a granular-activated carbon system for Well #5. The goal is to consistently reduce the contaminant levels to below state and federal guidelines, whichever are stricter.
- b. If it appears that the system is functioning effectively, 3M and Oakdale will consider the potential of providing treatment for other city wells within our community.
- c. Once constructed, the operation and maintenance of the system will be transferred from 3M to the City of Oakdale. 3M will continue to pay all costs of operating and maintaining the system.
- d. 3M will be responsible for the operation and maintenance expenses for five (5) years. After that time, 3M and the City of Oakdale will review the results. 3M will continue to finance the operation of the treatment facility until contaminant levels consistently stay below state and federal guidelines for eight (8) consecutive quarters. Should any contamination levels exceed the safety levels, the operation and maintenance costs will revert back to 3M.

On another front, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is investigating the potential sources of the contamination, including the former Washington County landfill site (located in Lake Elmo east of Jamaica Avenue, south of Lake Jane) and Abresch site (located in Oakdale at the southeast corner of Granada Avenue and Highway 5), and is considering methods to eliminate the PFCs at the source.

We clearly believe that our drinking water is safe and we are doing everything possible to insure the safety and quality of our water. This initial step with 3M gets us well on the way to addressing this situation and we will continue to monitor it closely. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Works Director Brian Bachmeier at 651-730-2730 or City Administrator Craig Waldron at 651-730-2705.

Sincerely,

Carmen Sarrack, Mayor