

INVEST IN HEALTHY & SAFE DRINKING WATER

PFAS AND NITRATES TREATMENT



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 23,000 people with drinking water. An emerging contaminant for Hastings is PFAS (specifically PFOA and PFOS). With new 2024 EPA limits, Hastings drinking water exceeds safe drinking levels due to PFAS. These chemicals can accumulate in the body and can lead to cancer, reproductive, heart and other organ and immunological effects. Additionally, Hastings has elevated nitrate levels in its water supply (causes blue baby syndrome). Adding nitrate treatment to this project is cost effective and will help protect against the additivity of multiple contaminants.

The City of Hastings requests \$16.6 M in state funds for design and construction of one of three water treatment plants (WTPs) to remove PFAS and nitrates from city drinking water. The first WTP includes delivering safe water to the Minnesota Veterans Home. Construction of the overall project is \$68.9M.

State Request: \$16.6 M

Eastern Water Treatment Plant and Associated Water Lines

- Seeking funds to construct Eastern Water Treatment Plant (one of three WTPs) and associated piping to remove PFAS and nitrates from city drinking water, includes interconnect of Minnesota Veterans Home.
- Each plant would use GAC (granular activated carbon) treatment for PFAS removal and IX (ion exchange) for nitrate removal to address the water chemistry of each well connection. Three plants allows for the delivery of treatment to the built environment of the existing water system and for redundancy if issues occur in any one of the plants.
- Without funding, Hastings water rates will double in two years and triple in five years, making the City of Hastings water rates among 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 have connected one well to the 3M East Metro Settlement Funds. We believe the remaining well field will show interconnections, but cannot continue to wait on removal of this contamination.

City of Hastings Contributions:

- Completed feasibility study
- Land value \$134K, plus saving time and cost of land acquisition
- \$700K raw water piping installed at site in anticipation of future treatment plant
- \$3.2M grant to design three water treatment plants
- \$3M grant for MDH Emerging Contaminants
- Continuing to pursue other capital grants
- Additional \$1M annually for Operations and Maintenance (O&M). Note that the State has committed to covering 20 years O&M of PFAS removal for other municipal water systems.
- Increased water rates 10% in 2025 to begin collecting additional revenue for treatment.

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Proposed treatment plant



GAC treatment vessels to remove PFAS



TIMING AND ACTION TO DATE

The city plans to phase in construction of the three plants, with one plant each year, starting in 2025 and ending in 2028. 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 (IUP) in 2024. The Eastern WTP is **ranked #2** on the IUP.
- Received \$3.2 million PFAS Planning & Design Grant through MPCA for design work and bidding for construction.
- Working with MPCA to identify potential sources and locations of PFAS contributing to groundwater contamination. In October 2024, the MPCA approved one well within the central WTP eligible for funding through the State's 2018 3M Settlement.
- The MPCA has requested 3M Company to investigate and model groundwater in the Hastings vicinity. The investigative work plan continues in 2025.
- Working with elected officials, including Senator Judy Seeberger and Rep. Shane Hudella, who introduced SF 3161 and HF 3115. Strong advocacy continues in 2025 with Rep. Tom Dippel.
- Design of the central WTP is progressing with a targeted construction start in August 2025. The eastern WTP is shovel ready and will start in January 2026.
- The city has had extensive public meetings, communication and media coverage about PFAS and proposed treatment. More than 300 people attended a town hall meeting in May 2024, with almost as many watching the livestream.

Minnesota Veterans Home

The Minnesota Veterans Home owns and operates their own water system that has PFAS contaminants in its water supply exceeding the 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.

