

Water Gremlin Public Health Assessment - Summary

8/23/2022

The Water Gremlin Public Health Assessment (PHA) reviews all available environmental data and describes how people may have been, or continue to be, exposed to chemicals from Water Gremlin and what that may mean for their health. The PHA process helps identify appropriate public health actions and responds to community health concerns. MDH offered the community the opportunity to comment on the draft PHA. Comments are responded to by MDH in Appendix H, and changes indicated in the responses have been made in the PHA.

The PHA is not a “health study” and does not contain community-reported health information, a review of medical records, or any medical screening.

PHA Conclusions

MDH reached seven main conclusions regarding potential exposures to contaminants from Water Gremlin. The basis for each conclusion and next steps are provided in the PHA. The main conclusions are described below.

MDH concluded that past trichloroethylene (TCE) air emissions may have harmed some people’s health. It is possible that past exposures to TCE in air near the facility may have been sufficient to increase the risk of health effects in a small number of the most exposed individuals. Past or current trans-1,2-dichloroethylene and lead air emissions are not expected to harm people’s health in the surrounding community.

Exposure to lead may have harmed the health of Water Gremlin workers and their families. Chemicals in the indoor air at the Water Gremlin facility may be harming or may have harmed worker’s health.

Public Health Action Plan

The PHA contains a six-point action plan that describes steps MDH will take to protect the health of the community into the future. In summary, MDH will continue to review new data, information, or guidance and will share information about any potential health concerns identified in the future with the community. MDH remains available to explore and discuss what efforts may be feasible to help meet the goals and objectives of the community in absence of a health study.

The PHA is on the [MDH Water Gremlin Site webpage](http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/hazardous/sites/watergremlininc.html) (www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/hazardous/sites/watergremlininc.html).

Minnesota Department of Health | Site Assessment and Consultation Unit
625 Robert Street N. | PO Box 64975 | St. Paul, MN 55164-0975
Phone: 651-201-4897 | health.hazard@state.mn.us
www.health.state.mn.us

To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-4897.