



Minnesota Department of Health

121 East Seventh Place
P.O. Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975

N91192.AR.000391
NIROP FRIDLEY
5090.3a

March 6, 1998

Thomas R. Bloom
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region V
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Bloom:

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) recommends that you consider the following for inclusion in the Five Year Review for NIROP:

A data gap exists for levels of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) in raw water. Data are needed to ascertain impacts of Trichloroethylene (TCE) at the Minneapolis Water Works (MWW) water intakes. A carefully designed sampling plan would help describe seasonal variations that affect the TCE concentrations and impacts to the water intakes.

Reasons for the above recommendation are as follows:

- 1) TCE has been detected in the Mississippi River near the MWW water intakes, in the raw water tap in the MWW building, and in the MWW's finished water distribution system. All detects have been below the TCE Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 5 ug/l.
- 2) The MWW is a 24 hour operation that processes approximately 75,000,000 gallons of water per day. This water supplies approximately 500,000 residents. The treatment system has about a 24 hour reserve capability should the system need to be shut down.
- 3) The MWW is required to sample finished water for VOC's quarterly to satisfy the Safe Drinking Water Act. The sampling of raw water coming into the plant is not a regulatory requirement.
- 4) The MWW treatment system was not designed to specifically treat VOC's. However, there are some treatment processes in the purification system that would help eliminate low level VOC's.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (612) 215-0774.

Sincerely,

Daniel F. Pena
Site Assessment and Consultation

cc: David Douglas, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Gary Campbell, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
Bill Griem, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
Dick Clark, MDH/Drinking Water Protection

DFP:ac

TDD: (612) 623-5522 (Twin Cities) 1-800-627-3529 (Greater Minnesota)

An Equal Opportunity Employer