

High arsenic in water costs 200 jobs

Wednesday, April 15, 2009

BUFFALO LAKE, MN — A high level of arsenic in the well water of a beef slaughtering facility here has forced the plant to close, costing more than 200 workers their jobs, according to an April 15 *Star Tribune* [article](#).

North Star Beef Inc. owner William Gilger said in the article the Minnesota Department of Health tested the plant's water last summer and found 18.4 parts per billion (ppb) of arsenic; the federal maximum contaminant level of arsenic in drinking water is 10 ppb.

Gilger said he could not afford to fix the water safety issue in time to avoid federal penalties. The business also recently suffered a fire that caused at least \$1.1 million in damage, the article said