

Study says PFCs from water linger in blood

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ST. PAUL, MN — Residents in the eastern part of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area who drank water contaminated with perfluorochemicals (PFCs) have been notified by health officials that the chemical compounds are still detectable in their blood, according to local reports released July 9.

MPR News [reported](#) July 9 that state health officials say a biomonitoring pilot project confirmed that Cottage Grove, Lake Elmo and Oakdale residents who drank water that was later found to be contaminated with PFCs and who agreed to participate in the project were exposed to PFCs at higher levels than the national average.

The *Star Tribune* [reported](#) that the 196 east metro study participants also retained trace levels of the PFCs in their blood.

PFCs were used to make Teflon® and stain-resistant products by 3M in its Cottage Grove, MN, plant for more than 50 years until 2002. The company disposed of wastes in area dumps until the mid-1970s, and it has financed hookups with city water for more than 200 homes with contaminated private wells in Lake Elmo. The company also paid for Oakdale to install filtration devices at a contaminated city well, the *Star Tribune* reported.

State health officials set two public meetings to discuss the study and answer questions.