

Gasoline Additive Project

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is currently working to address over 5,000 sites that contained leaded gasoline tanks. These are sites with reported groundwater contamination due to leaks from the tanks.

What are gasoline additives?

This project focuses on two additives used in leaded gasoline: ethylene dibromide (EDB) and 1,2-dichloroethane (1,2-DCA). These fuel additives were phased out in the late 1980s. Even though these compounds have not been used in gasoline for over 30 years, they may persist in the environment and affect drinking water wells for a long time.

Why is this project being conducted?

New information from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) about drinking water, advancements in risk assessment, and better detection of contamination at lower levels has led to the need for additional assessment at these sites. The MPCA previously assessed and closed these sites using risk assessment information available at that time.

What sites will be evaluated?

The MPCA will assess sites with known or suspected leaded gasoline groundwater contamination. Drinking water wells within 1,500 feet of these sites will be evaluated for risk and may be sampled.

What if I have city water?

City water supplies are already sampled for 1,2-DCA and EDB. No additional sampling of your water is necessary.

Why is there concern?

What are the health concerns from 1,2-DCA and EDB in drinking water?

Studies show that both 1,2-DCA and EDB can cause cancer in laboratory animals. Being exposed to these chemicals at levels above guidance values for a long time could increase the risk for certain types of cancer in people.

Are there levels of 1,2-DCA and EDB that are safe in drinking water?

Yes. MDH develops health risk limits (HRLs), which are levels of contaminants that pose little or no health risk to people drinking the water. You can find information about HRLs for 1,2-DCA, EDB and other contaminants on the Guidance Values and Standards for Contaminants in Drinking Water page on the MDH website: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/risk/guidance/gw/index.html>.

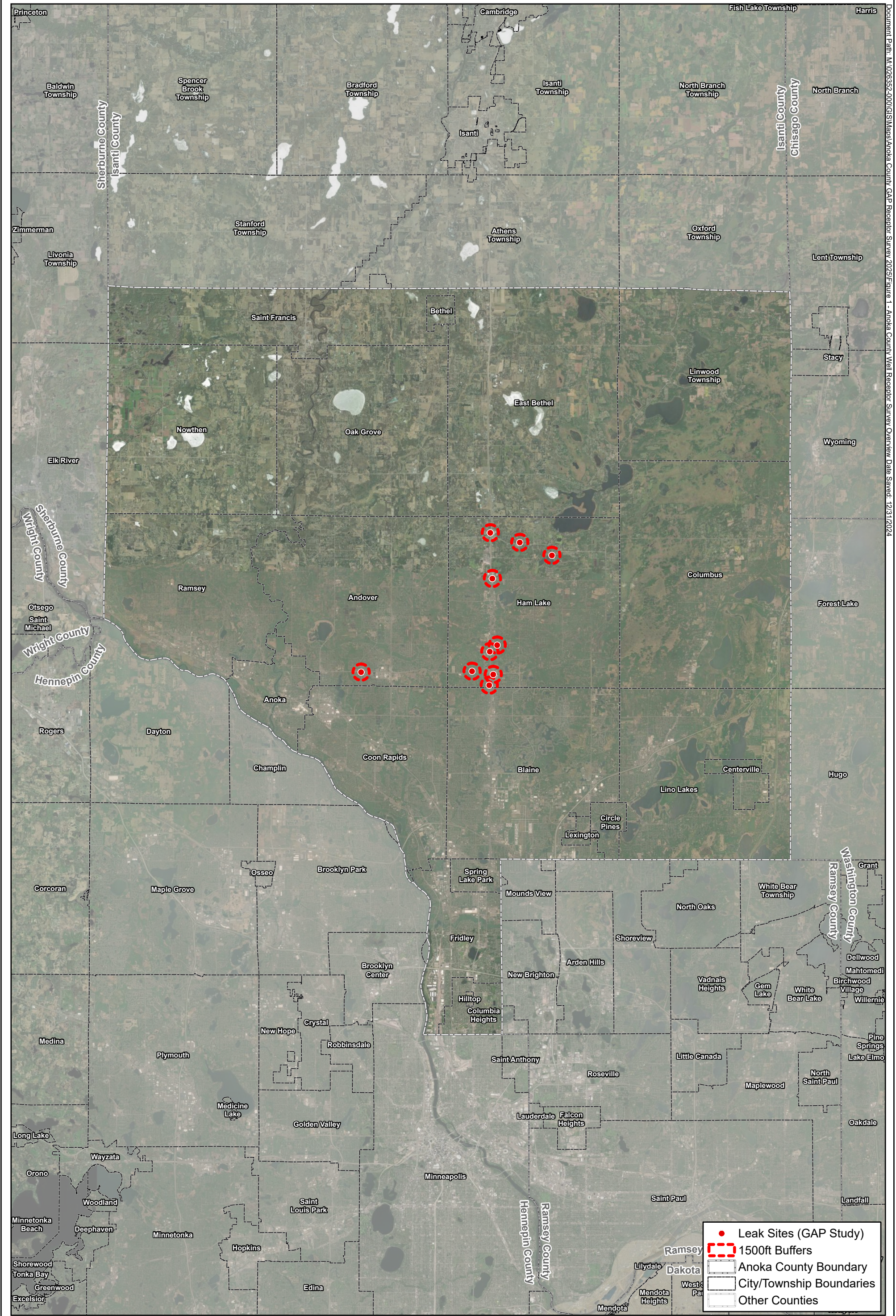


Figure 1 - Anoka County Well Receptor Survey Overview
GAP-Area Wide Receptor Survey for Anoka County
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Anoka County, Minnesota

