November 16, 2017

RE: Public informational meeting on proposed remediation work at Waste Disposal Engineering Landfill

Dear Resident:

On November 29, 2017, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) will host a public informational meeting to discuss progress on developing plans for cleanup of the hazardous waste pit at the closed Waste Disposal Engineering (WDE) Landfill. The meeting will be at Andover City Hall - Council Chambers located at 1685 Crosstown Blvd NW, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. with a presentation at 7:30. MPCA staff will present the site history, past remediation action, past and current groundwater trends, proposed alternatives for removing the hazardous waste pit, project schedule, and will be available for questions and comments.

The hazardous waste pit at WDE Landfill takes up about 1/3 of an acre within the landfill. The pit was constructed with a clay and asphalt liner system that was deemed adequate when the pit was closed in 1974. The hazardous waste pit liner has deteriorated over time and is now leaking into the soil below.

During the last 30 years, a number of systems were installed to keep groundwater contamination from spreading outside the boundary of the landfill. These systems treat 25 million gallons of groundwater each year and control the migration of the contamination plume. It is important to know the city’s water supply is safe and is not being compromised by the landfill. Despite the measures being taken to address groundwater contamination at the landfill, risks remain; particularly should the systems addressing the hazardous waste pit fail.

It is also expensive to operate the systems. Since 1995 when the site entered the Closed Landfill Program, $13.7 million has been spent to construct, operate and maintain these control systems. In the past year alone, operation and maintenance costs were more than $500,000.

The MPCA believes the best solution is to remove the barrels and contaminated soil from the hazardous waste pit and is proposing to start the work in the fall of 2018. The MPCA will hold another public meeting to present the selected remediation design, communication plan, and project schedule prior to the start date.

If you have any questions about the meeting please contact me at 651-757-2409 or pat.hanson@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,

Patrick Hanson

This document has been electronically signed.
Patrick Hanson
Project Manager
Remediation Division

PH: jmp