

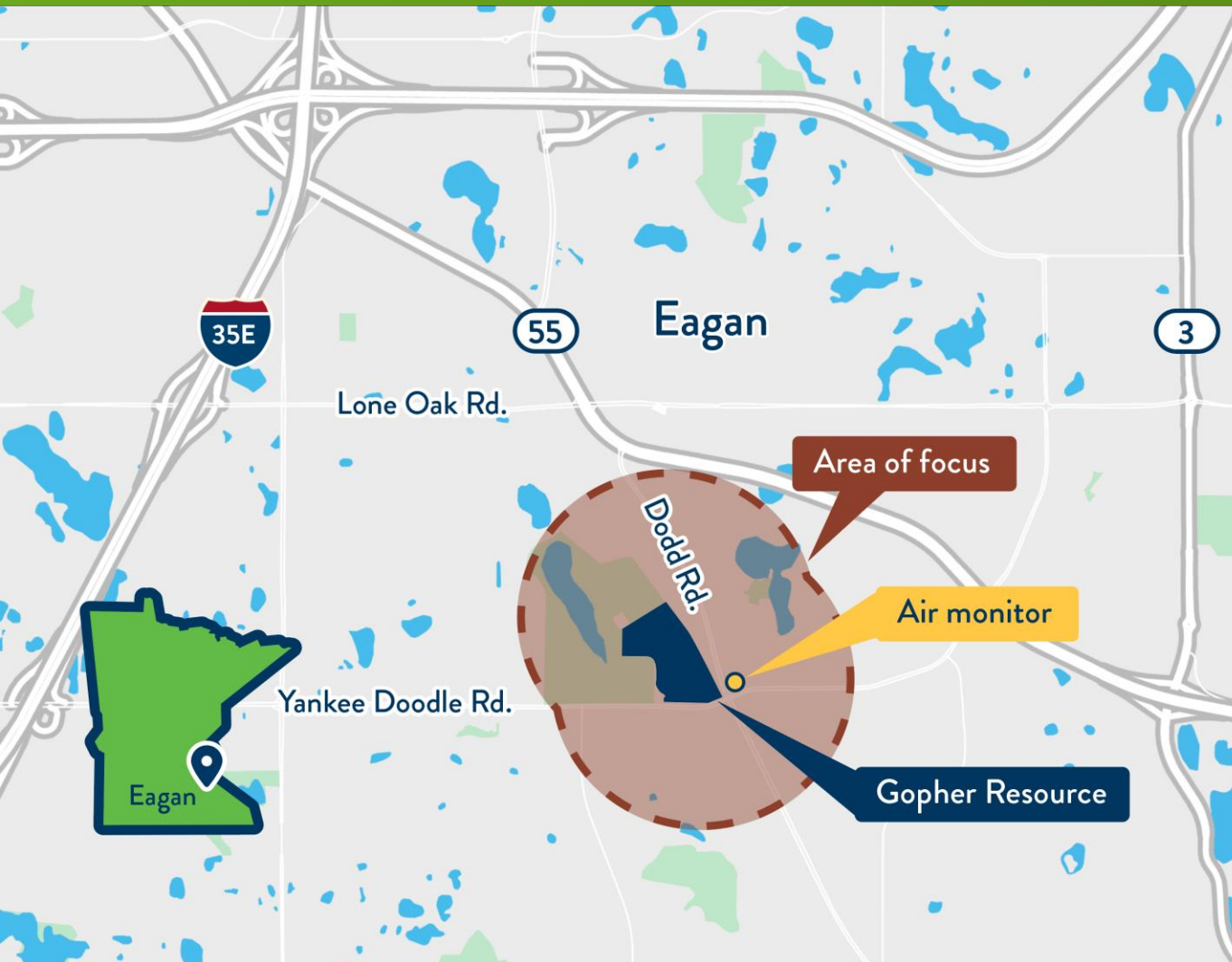
Gopher Resource Community Meeting



The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Minnesota Department of Health appreciate the invitation to be in community again.

We are here to provide information and answer questions as best we can at this time.

Gopher Resource air emissions overview



- The MPCA is addressing elevated levels of lead detected through ambient air monitoring near Gopher Resource in Eagan.
- MPCA air monitors measured elevated levels of lead that exceeded federal standards across the street from the facility between January and March 2025.
- The problems at the facility that caused the elevated lead emissions have been resolved.

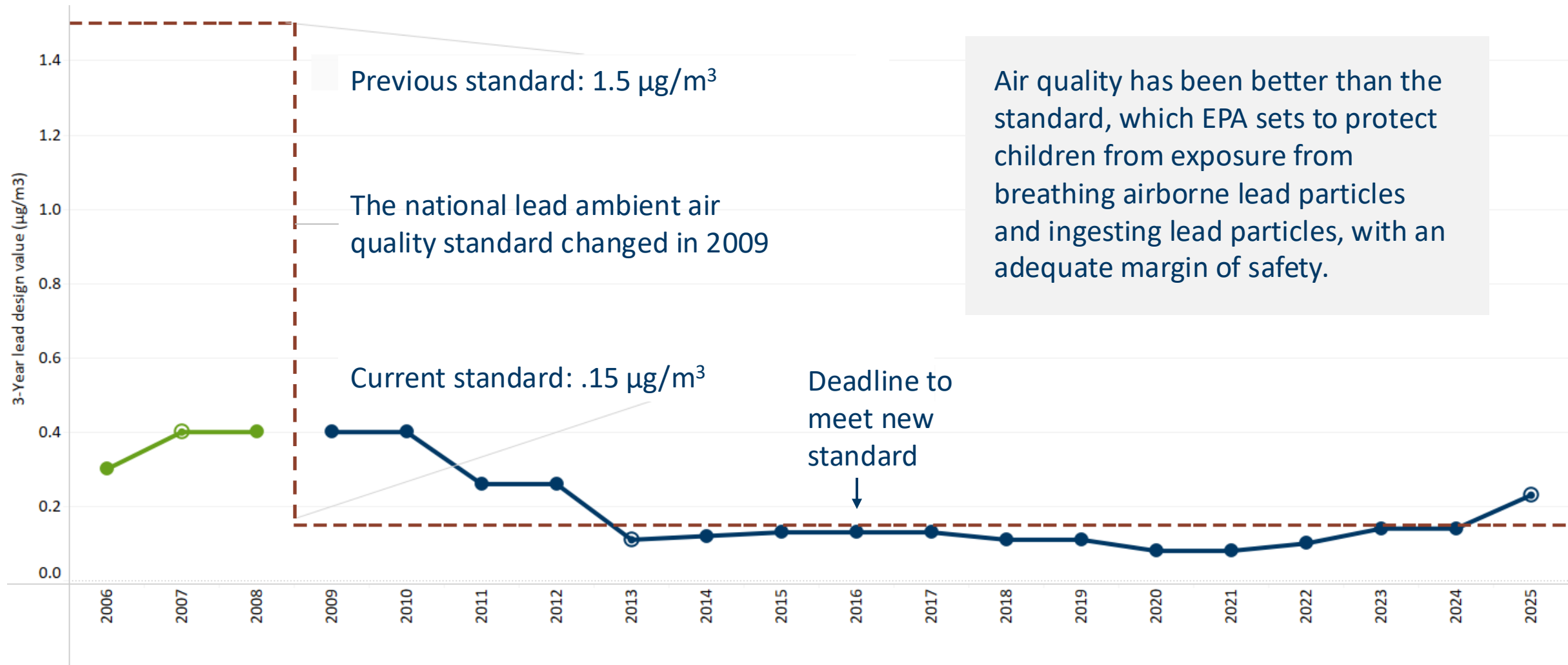
Lead and human health

Facilities must comply with the ***National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Lead***

- Federal Standard of 0.15 micrograms per cubic meter of air ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) after three consecutive months
- The standard that protects human health and the environment
- Set to protect public health, including vulnerable populations with an adequate margin of safety



Lead air levels compared to federal standards in vicinity of Gopher Resource, 2007-2025



Gopher Resource air emissions overview

Area of focus

The area that may have been exposed to lead emissions extends 1.5 miles across north and south and 1.2 miles across east and west around Gopher Resource.

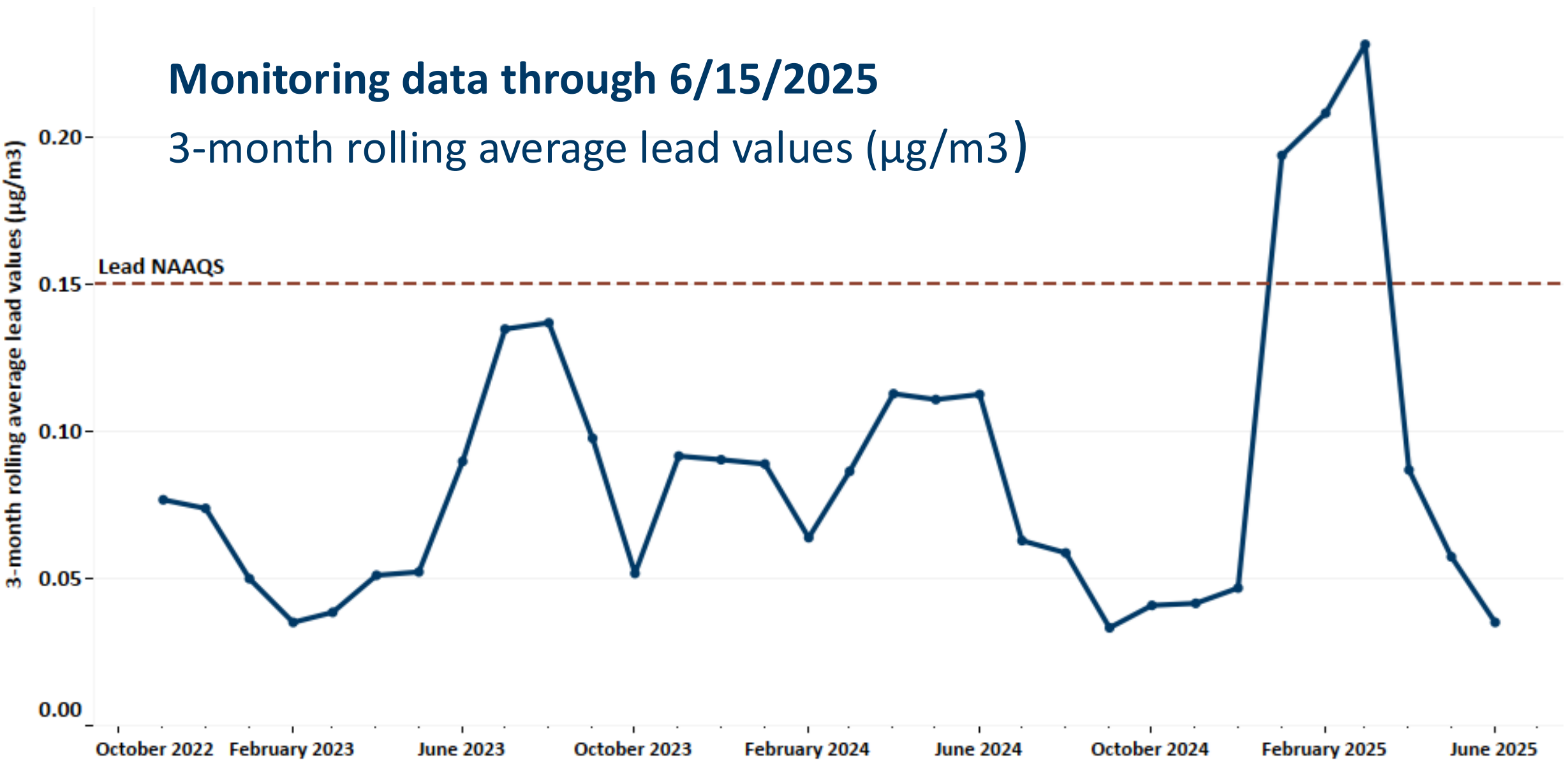
- Approx. 700 residents
- The area is mostly zoned industrial



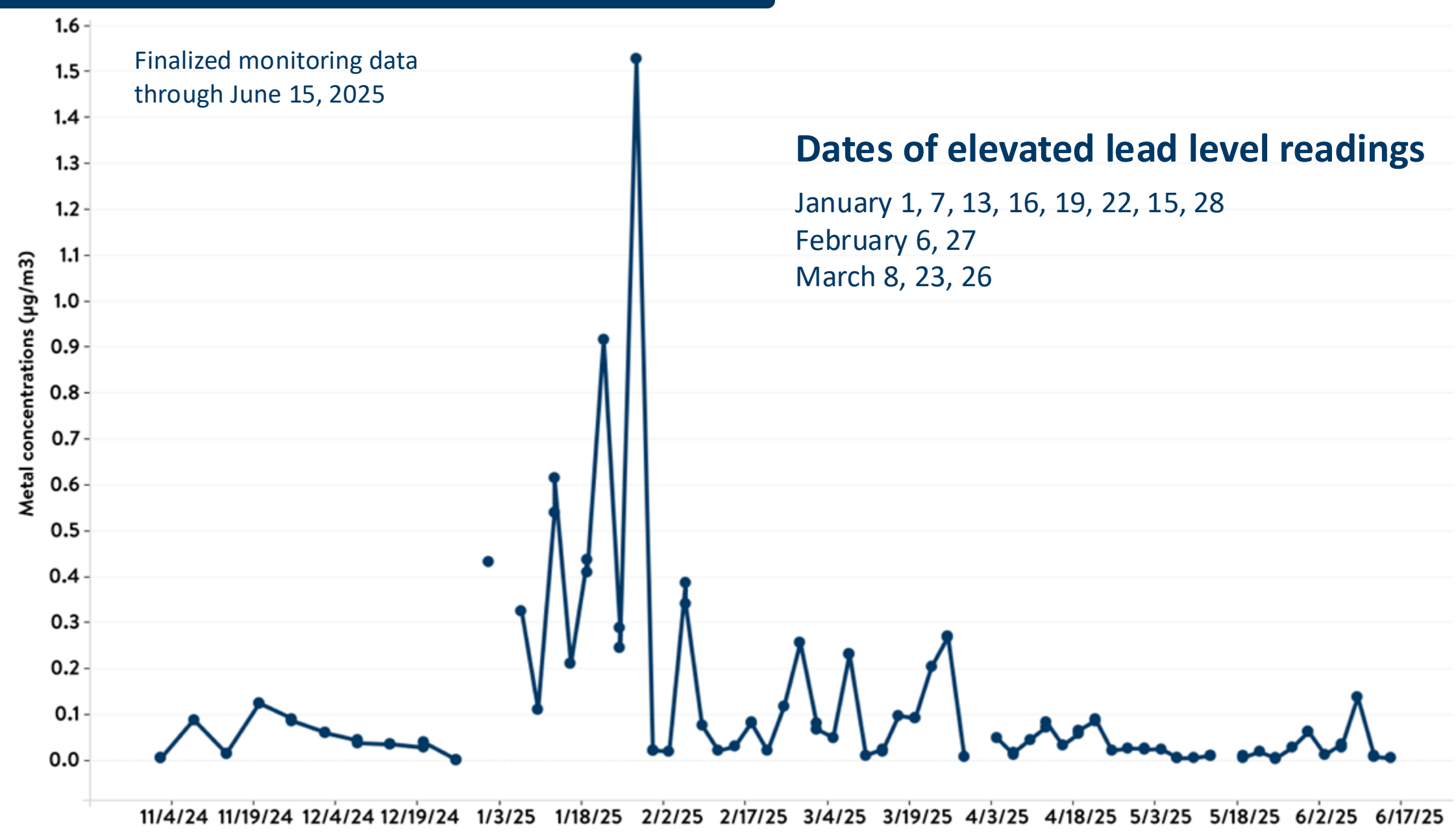
Gopher Resource air emissions overview

Monitoring data through 6/15/2025

3-month rolling average lead values ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)



Gopher Resource air emissions overview



January

Gopher Resource notifies MPCA of equipment malfunction and equipment is no longer in use

February

MPCA requests for more information from Gopher Resource; Gopher Resource fixes the equipment and puts back in use; MPCA internally flags unverified potentially elevated lead levels

March

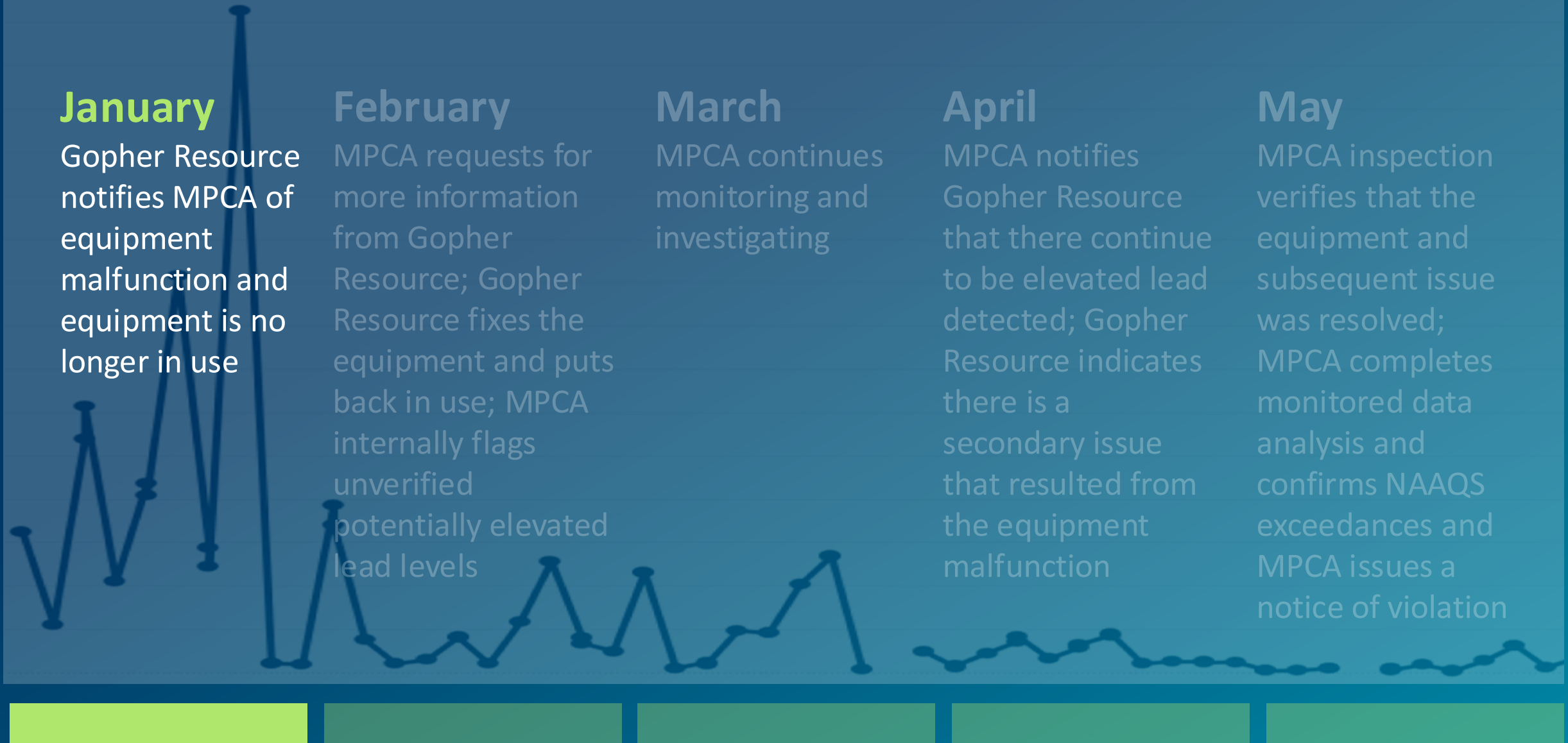
MPCA continues monitoring and investigating

April

MPCA notifies Gopher Resource that there continue to be elevated lead detected; Gopher Resource indicates there is a secondary issue that resulted from the equipment malfunction

May

MPCA inspection verifies that the equipment and subsequent issue was resolved; MPCA completes monitored data analysis and confirms NAAQS exceedances and MPCA issues a notice of violation



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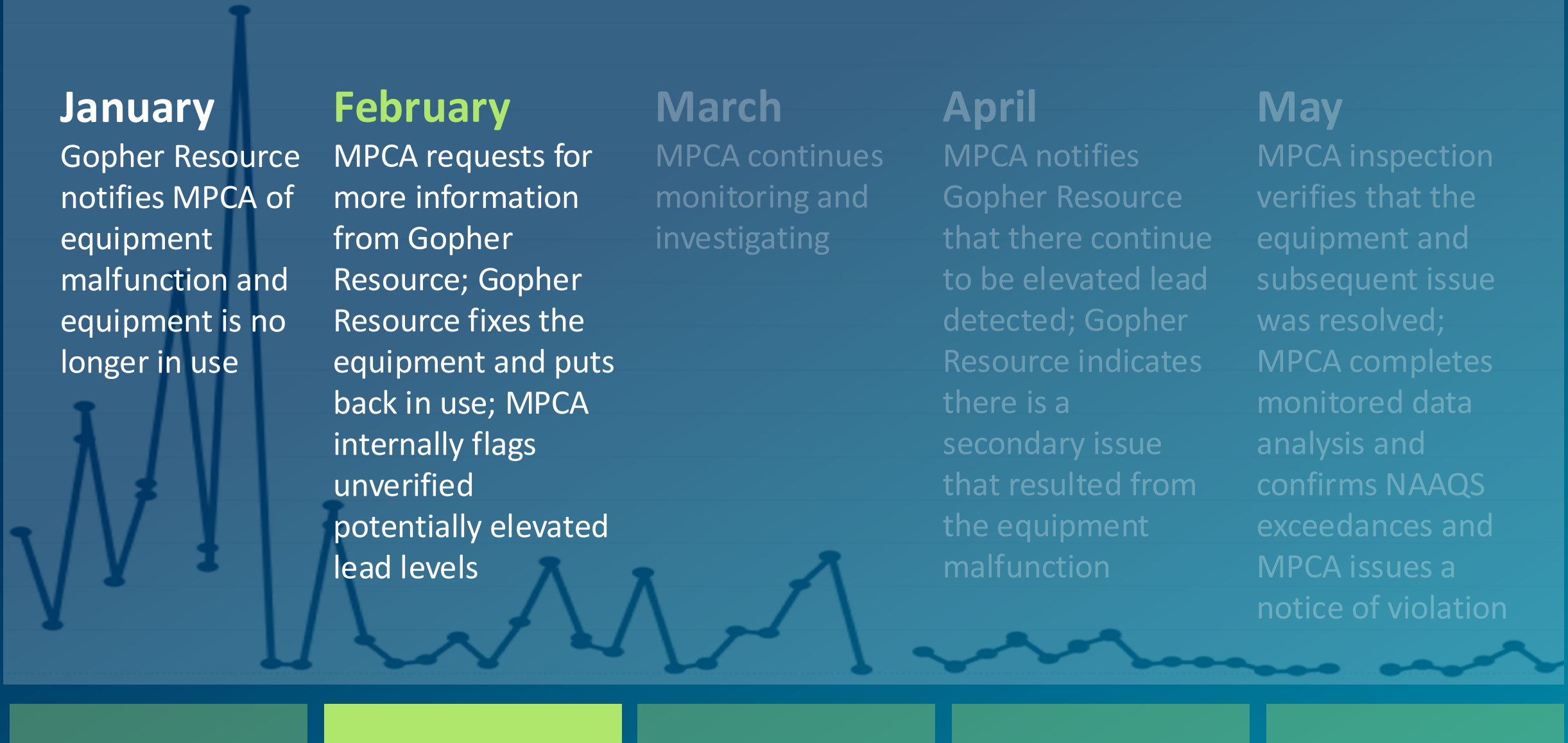
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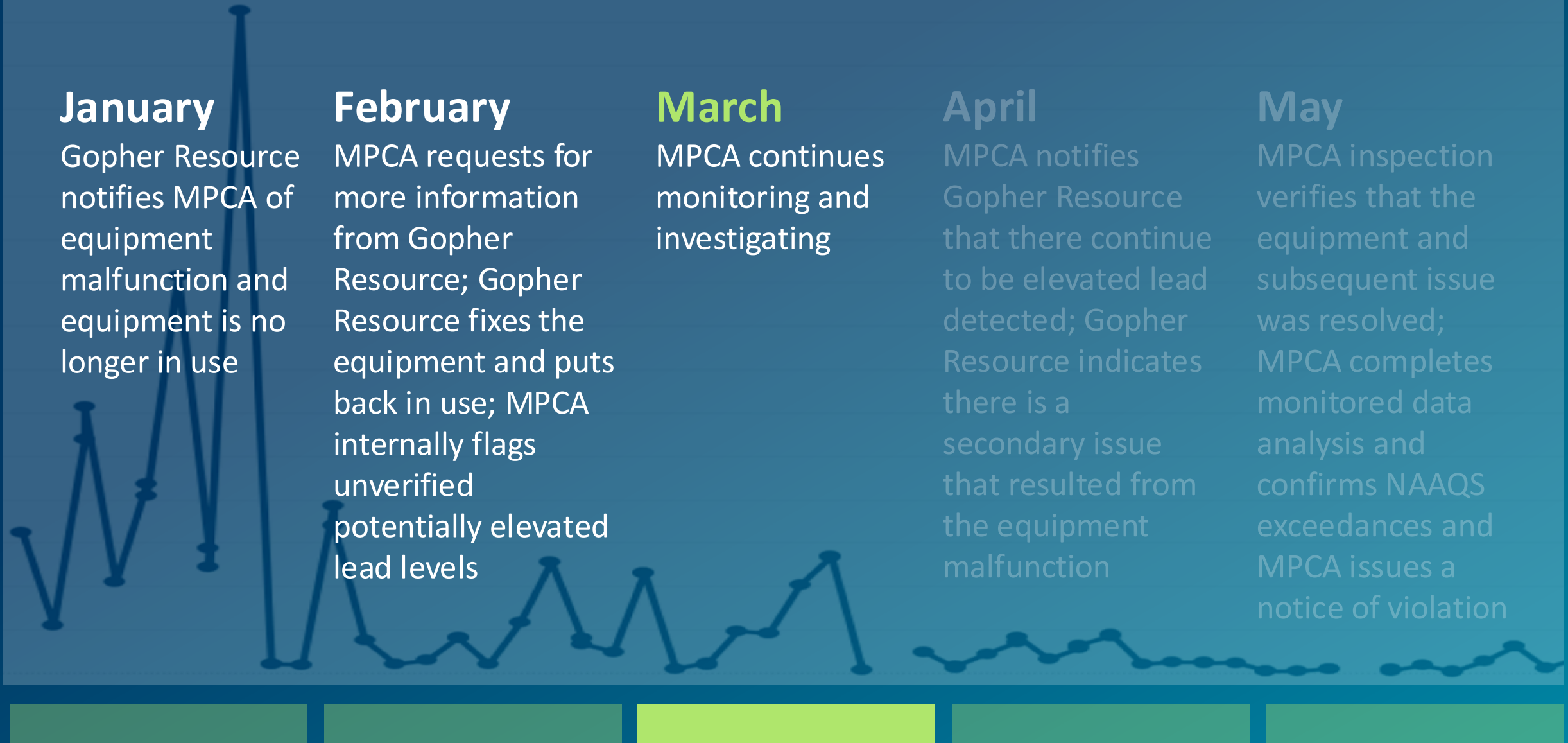
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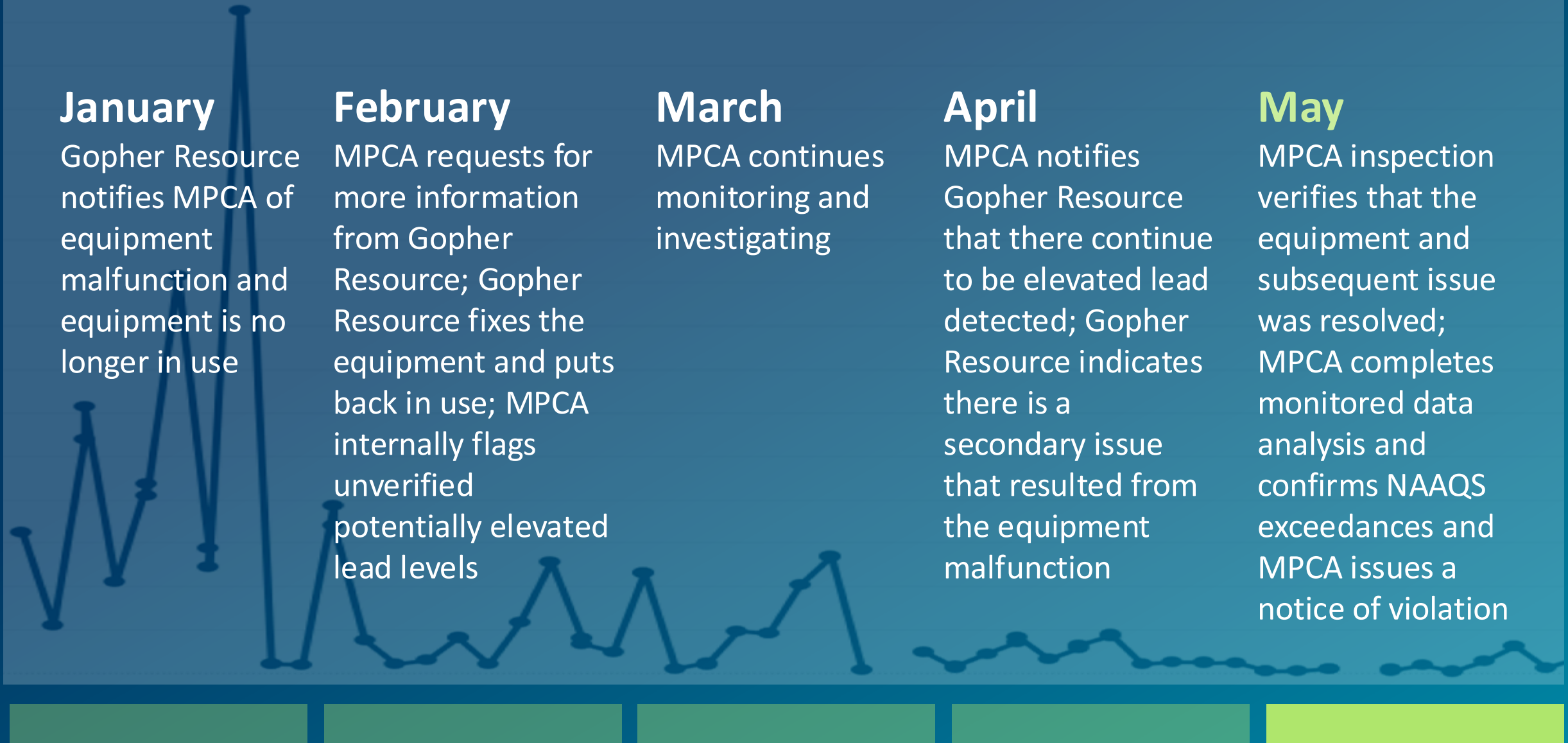
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Sharing about enforcement activities



There is an ongoing enforcement case related to onsite hazardous waste and stormwater management

- This is an active enforcement case, and state law prohibits us from providing additional detail other than to say this case is under investigation.
- We will inform the community when we can share information under state law.

Lead exposure and health

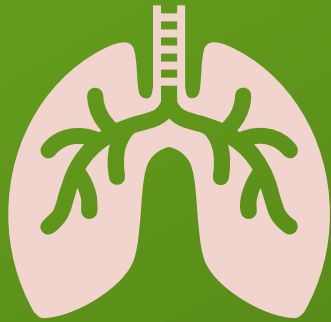


For lead to harm health, it must get into a person's body – this is called “exposure.”



No amount of lead in the body is safe. Even small amounts can be harmful, especially for children.

Ways lead exposure can happen



Inhalation

- Breathing in lead that is in the air



Ingestion

- Eating food that was grown in contaminated soil
- Touching lead dust that has settled out of the air, then touching food or items placed in mouth
 - Lead not generally absorbed through skin

Common sources of lead exposure



Old lead-based paint




Spices or foods contaminated with lead



Jobs or hobbies

Lead in the environment can also come from other sources including current and historical releases from industrial facilities.



A close-up photograph of a woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a grey t-shirt, holding a baby. She is looking down at the baby with a gentle expression. The baby is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and has its eyes closed. The background is softly blurred, showing what appears to be a couch and some pillows.

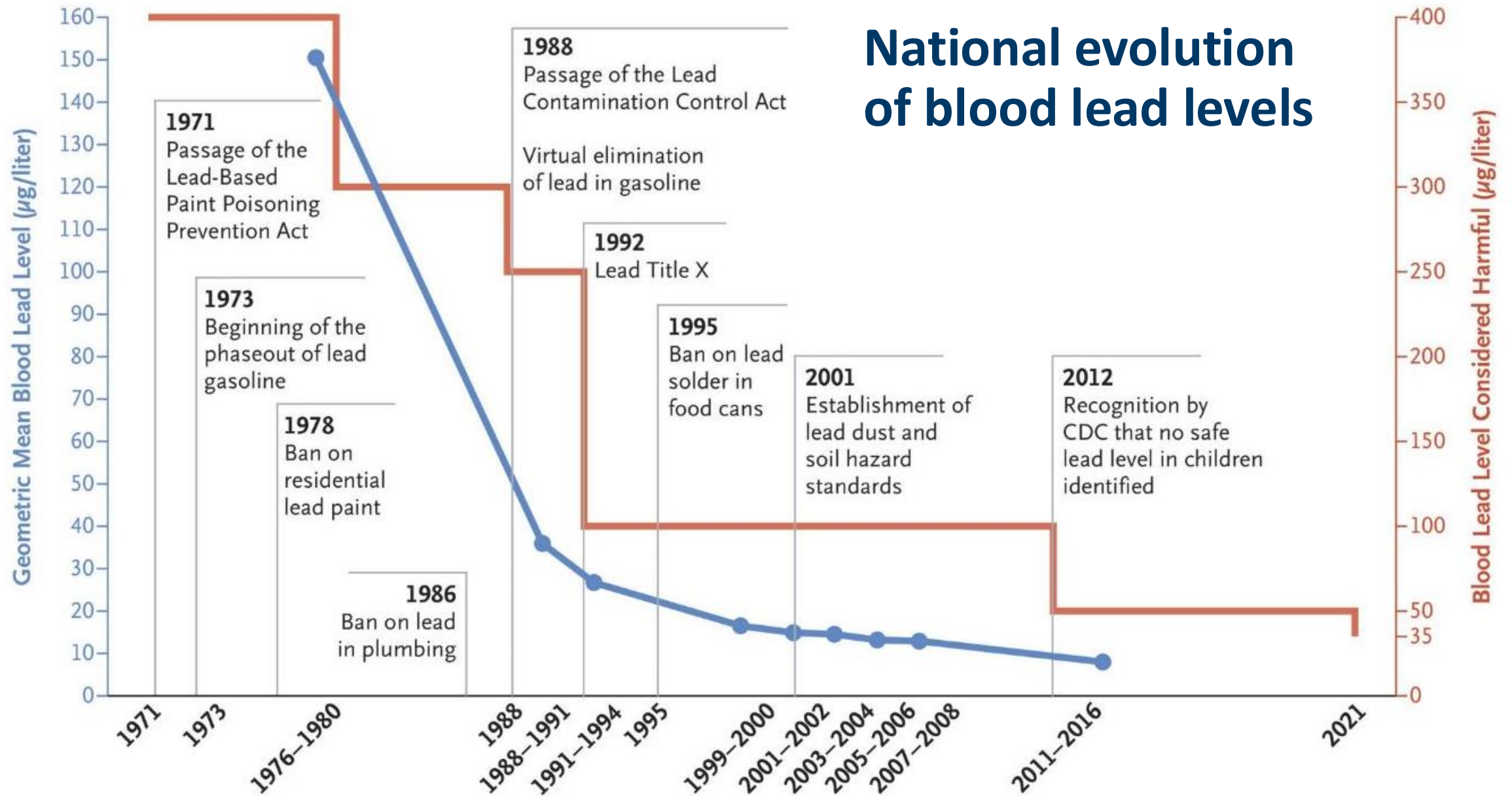
All people can be
affected by lead,
but children and
pregnant people
are most
vulnerable.

**Even though
no level of
lead is safe,
we can't
reach zero**

Risk isn't an all-or-nothing concept

- Practically, it's often impossible to eliminate all risk, only reduce to very low levels
- Over time, Minnesota and the U.S. have lowered what's considered a "safe" amount of lead to better protect health
 - Public health now takes action at lower blood lead levels
 - Standards for lead in soil, dust, and products are stricter than before

National evolution of blood lead levels



Health effects of lead



- Lower IQ
- Memory loss
- Behavior problems
- Headaches
- Fatigue
- Muscle pain
- Decreased kidney function
- High blood pressure
- Anemia
- Decreased fertility
- Increased risk of miscarriage

Many people who have elevated blood lead levels have no apparent signs or symptoms.

Blood lead testing



Can identify people who may need medical treatment

- It's not clear that testing people is helpful after a short-term, low-level exposure

Outlines public health action when higher blood lead levels are found

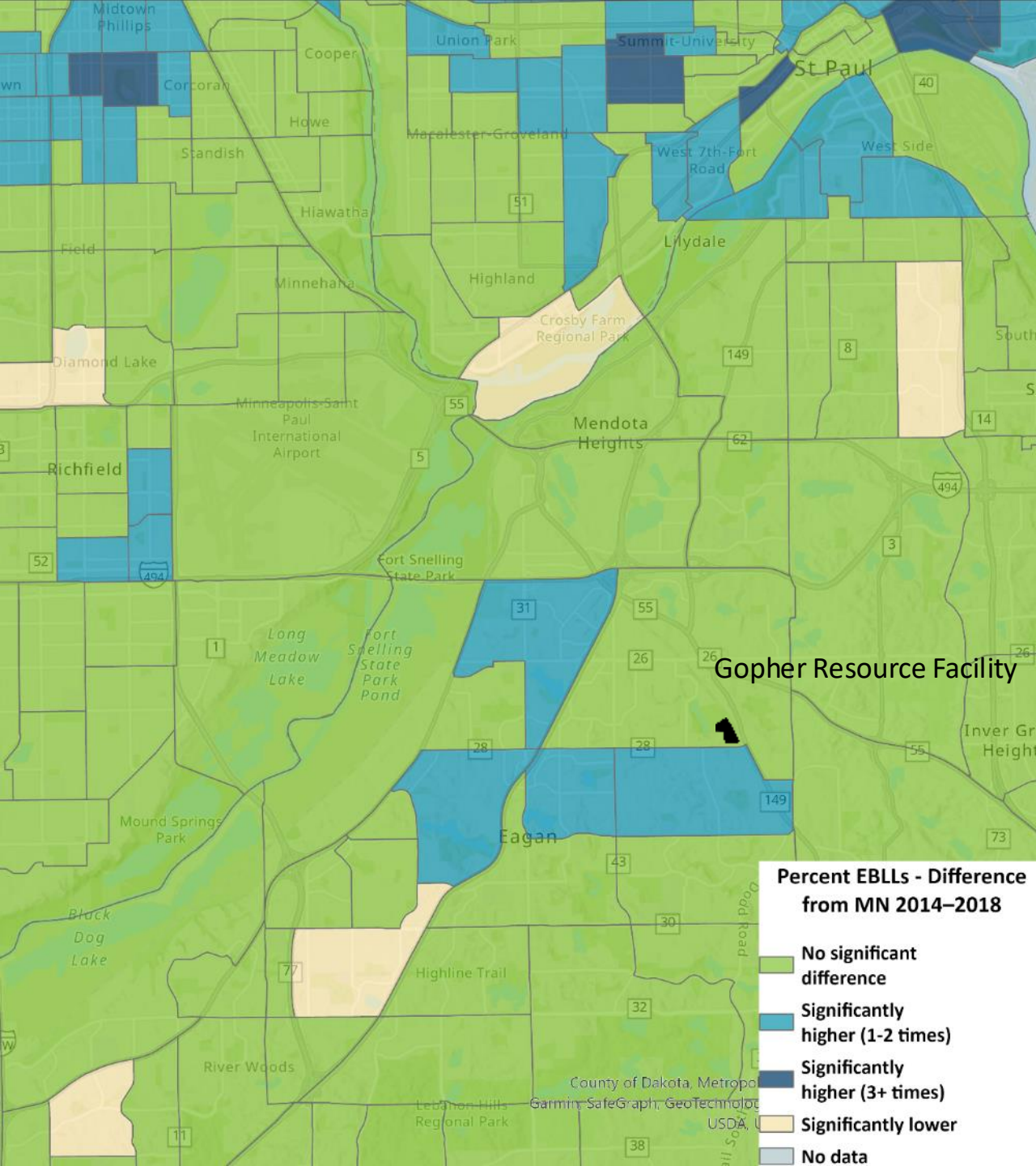
- Identify environmental sources of lead
- Stop ongoing lead exposure

- XRF devices emit radiation and are not approved for use on humans
- No FDA-approved tests for lead in bones exist
 - Neither MDH nor your medical provider can offer bone lead testing
- No established “normal” ranges for lead in bones

XRF screening device

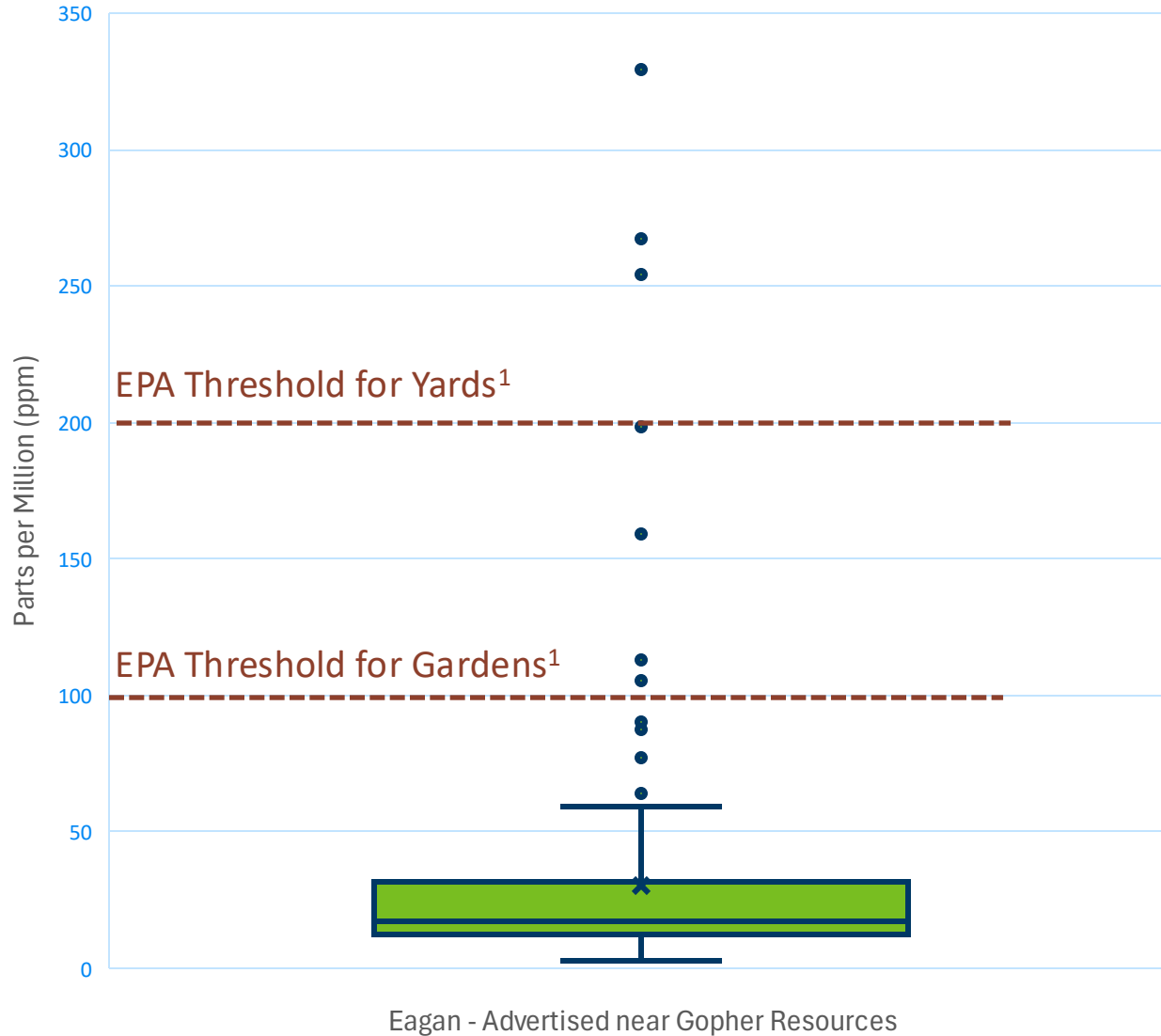


Percentage of children with Blood Lead Levels ≥ 5 mcg/dL Compared to State Average, 2014–2018



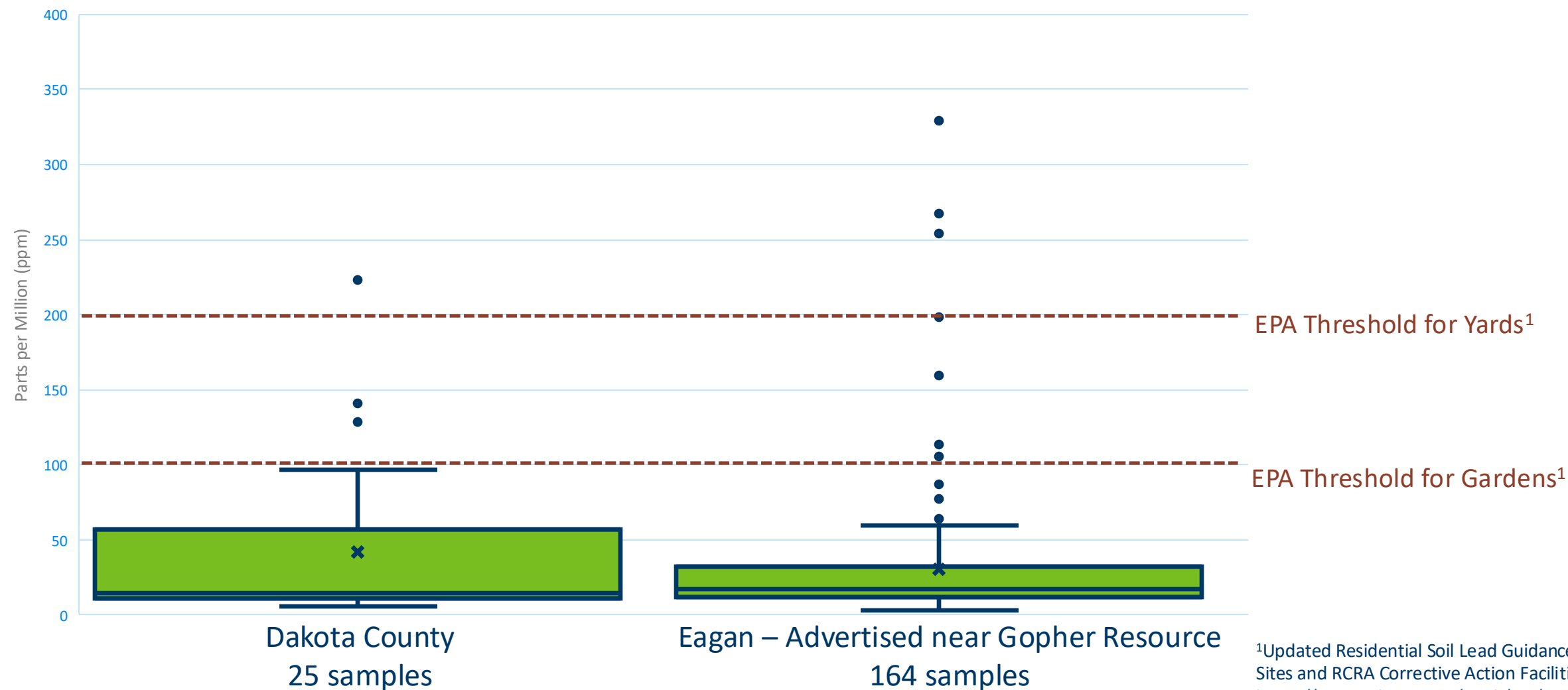
soilSHOP results

- 164 soil samples collected from community members at Open House and Wescott Library
- Soil screening offered as a community service
 - Not a scientific study of area
 - Not for regulatory decision-making
- Each data point is average of 3 readings
- Community members received results and consultation from health educator



¹Updated Residential Soil Lead Guidance for CERCLA Sites and RCRA Corrective Action Facilities. Available at: <https://semspub.epa.gov/work/HQ/100003435.pdf>.

soilSHOP results from Eagan and Dakota County



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What you can do

MDH advises that there is no need to go to the doctor solely because of this event.

The best “treatment” for any lead exposure is identifying and stopping the exposure.

Potential screening options



Screen your soil through the University of Minnesota.



Talk with your health care provider about blood lead screening if you have questions or concerns.



**Additional soil testing available
through University of Minnesota
soiltest.cfans.umn.edu**

**MDH can do additional soilSHOPS at
future farmers markets or events**

Contact us



651-296-6300

800-657-3864 (toll-free)

gopherresource.info.mpca@state.mn.us

mnpca.info/gopher



651-201-4897

800-657-3908 (toll-free)

health.hazard@state.mn.us

health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead