



## Address site contamination and vapor intrusion

Deliver more resources for cleaning up sites that pose public health hazards.

### What's the issue?

New funds are needed to deal with both existing and emerging issues at hundreds of Superfund and Petrofund sites statewide. Staff in the MPCA's Superfund, Petrofund, and Tanks programs work to clean up contaminated sites that threaten public health and the environment. Currently, the agency lacks the resources necessary to fully mitigate these threats and clean up contaminated sites that — once they are remediated — could be put to productive use.

### Why is it important?

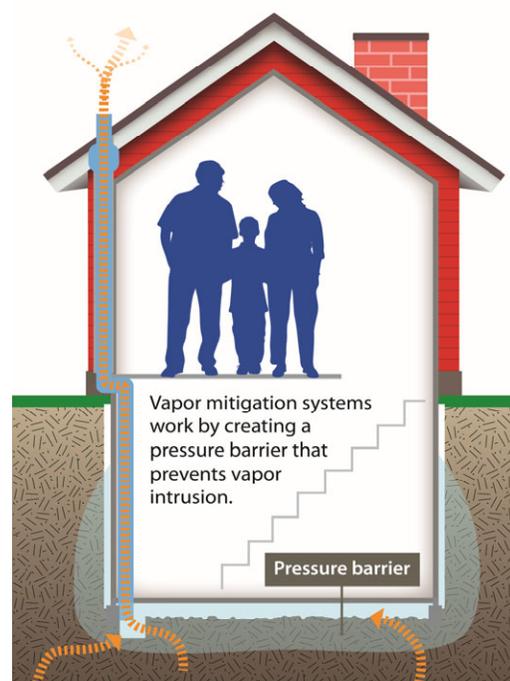
Recently discovered threats from soil vapors at contaminated sites, the tightening of federal drinking water standards, and steep reductions in federal funding have combined to put a strain on the MPCA's site cleanup resources.

**Superfund, Petrofund sites and vapor intrusion** — the Superfund Program pays for the cleanup of sites contaminated with hazardous substances and pollutants. The Petroleum Tank Release Cleanup Fund (Petrofund) reimburses applicants for costs related to cleaning up petroleum tank leaks.

New technology has helped identify a previously unknown health threat posed by Superfund and Petrofund sites: vapor intrusion. This is when pockets of contaminated vapors in soil enter homes and businesses through cracks in a building's foundation and threaten indoor air quality. These vapors persist in the soil for many years, even after contaminated groundwater and soils have been removed.

More than 1,400 closed and new Superfund sites and 750 Petrofund sites must be assessed for vapor intrusion. Vapor intrusion work is very labor intensive. For example, the General Mills site in North Minneapolis was designated in 2013 and three years later, we are still addressing its vapor intrusions issues.

**Superfund sites and drinking water** — In June 2016, the federal government lowered drinking water limits for two types of



### Protecting public health

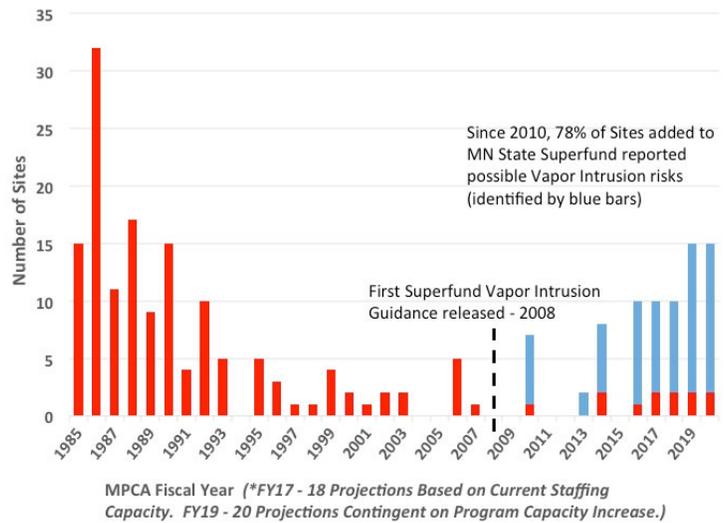
Vapor intrusion is an emotional issue. At each site, we:

- Identify homes and businesses that need to be tested
- Hold informational community meetings
- Obtain permission from owners to enter homes/buildings to test for vapor intrusion
- Arrange for installation of mitigation systems (sub-slab vacuum systems that vent vapors out at the roof) if vapor intrusion is present

perfluorochemicals (PFCs). New research shows that PFCs pose short-term threats to babies and pregnant women. The new limits mean more Minnesota homes require additional monitoring and treatment work from the MPCA. For example, to comply with the new limits, the agency must test water wells serving hundreds of homes in southern Washington County; 130 homes are already getting bottled water and additional in-home drinking water treatment to protect residents' health.

**The Tanks Program and funding cuts** — The MPCA's Tanks Program inspects underground petroleum storage tanks for leaks or flaws; inspections are required every three years on all federally-regulated underground tanks. Currently, the agency can't meet that requirement due to a 44% federal funding cut over the past four years. But maintaining the program and inspections is critical to preventing spills — and future clean-up work.

### Minnesota State Superfund sites: upward trend



### What's the goal?

Keep the MPCA on pace to address contamination all over the state and protect the health of residents. Without adequate resources, this critical work will slow down, putting Minnesotans' health at risk.

### Funding request

\$2.950 million over biennium for maintaining seven existing FTEs and adding three new FTEs

Fund	FY 2018	FY2019
Petroleum Fund	\$800,000	\$800,000
Remediation Fund	\$675,000	\$675,000
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$ 1,475,000</i>	<i>\$ 1,475,000</i>

### For more information

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