

## 3M settlement: key facts

On February 20, 2018, the State of Minnesota and the 3M Company reached an agreement to settle the state’s Natural Resource Damage lawsuit. Under the terms of the agreement, 3M provided an \$850 million grant to the state to be used for safe drinking water and natural resource projects. After legal and other expenses were paid, about \$720 million is being invested in drinking water and natural resource projects in the Twin Cities east metropolitan region.

### Grant trustees

The grant trustees are the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

### Priority one — ensure safe drinking water

The top priority for the grant money is to improve the quality and quantity of drinking water in the east metropolitan area. This area includes, but is not limited to, the cities of Afton, Cottage Grove, Lake Elmo, Lakeland, Lakeland Shores, Maplewood, Newport, Oakdale, Prairie Island Indian Community, St. Paul Park, Woodbury, and the townships of Denmark, Grey Cloud Island, and West Lakeland.

Funded projects will help provide the region’s 157,000 residents and businesses with safe drinking water to meet current and future needs.

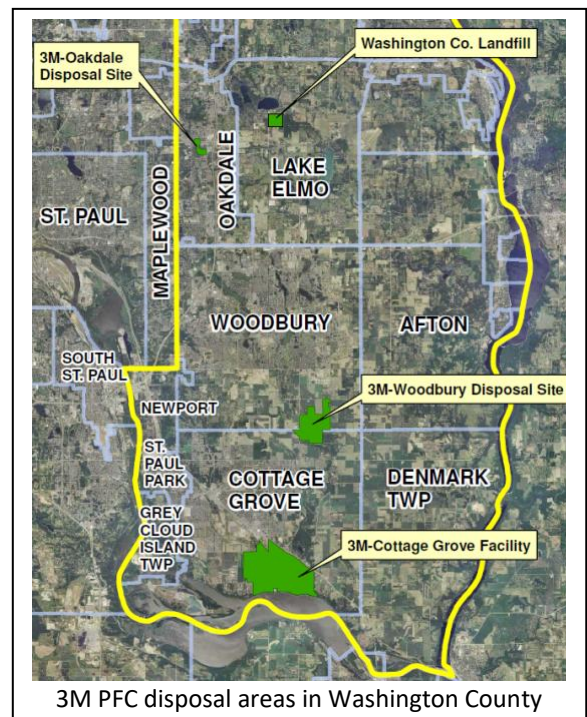
### Priority two — enhance natural resources

The second priority for grant spending is to enhance water resources, wildlife habitat, and outdoor recreational opportunities in the east metropolitan area, or downstream of the area on the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers.

Under the terms of the agreement, a minimum of \$20 million is set aside for priority two. After the safe drinking water goals of the first priority are reasonably achieved, more grant money can be used for natural resource projects.

### Priority three — remaining grant funds

If there are funds remaining after the first two priority goals have been met, the grant can be used for statewide environmental improvement projects. Only projects in categories such as statewide water resources, habitat restoration, open space preservation, recreation improvements, or other sustainability projects would be considered.



## Settlement agreement and 2007 Consent Order

A 2007 Consent Order between the MPCA and 3M spelled out what activities 3M is required to pay for related to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination. The 2007 Consent Order remains in place, and the recent settlement agreement outlines how the grant will work in conjunction with the 2007 Consent Order.

For the first five years after the 2018 Settlement, 3M will pay up to \$40 million for the short-term drinking water needs — out of its own funds on a reimbursable basis — under the terms of the 2007 Consent Order. This includes expenses such as providing bottled water and installing temporary in-home water filtering systems to residents with PFAS-contaminated wells. The company will also pay for the operation and maintenance of temporary municipal drinking water treatment systems, such as those recently installed to treat wells in Cottage Grove. These dollars are intended to be used as a bridge to the long-term solutions funded under priority one.

Once the five years are over or \$40 million is spent, any remaining short-term drinking water expenses will be covered by the grant, if grant funds remain available. After the grant funds are gone, 3M under the 2007 Consent Order continues to be required to cover all drinking water expenses due to the contamination.

3M will also continue to pay remediation costs under the 2007 Consent Order at the three Washington County disposal sites for which the company has assumed responsibility:

- 3M Cottage Grove facility
- 3M Oakdale disposal site
- 3M Woodbury disposal site

## Next steps

- Continue to ensure all interim safe drinking water needs are met.
- Two main work groups will identify and recommend projects. Groups include representatives of east metro communities, 3M, and the state of Minnesota. These meetings are open to the public.
- The Drinking Water Supply Technical Subgroup is analyzing long-term options and will deliver a drinking water supply plan to the two main working groups by December 2019. This group includes drinking water and groundwater professionals from the east metro communities along with state agencies. These meetings are also open to the public.
- Determine a schedule for reporting progress on investing funds in clean water and natural resource projects.

## For more information

Please email your questions and comments to — [pfcinfo.pca@state.mn.us](mailto:pfcinfo.pca@state.mn.us)

Keep up to date on the 3M Settlement and associated work groups at — <https://3msettlement.state.mn.us/>

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

- East Metro well sampling — [www.pca.state.mn.us/waste/well-sampling-east-metro-area](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/waste/well-sampling-east-metro-area)
- PFAS — [www.pca.state.mn.us/waste/perfluorochemicals-pfcs](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/waste/perfluorochemicals-pfcs)

Minnesota Department of Health

- [www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/hazardous/topics/pfcs](http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/hazardous/topics/pfcs)