



The Governor's capital budget includes \$7.15 million for initiatives to improve waste management infrastructure and address pollution in communities across Minnesota.

Statewide drinking water contamination mitigation

Private drinking water wells at several locations around the state are polluted with PFAS or 1,4-dioxane at levels that exceed health-based values or legal standards.

The Statewide Drinking Water Contamination Mitigation program, established by the 2025 Legislature, awards grants to provide safe drinking water to residents with private wells impacted by man-made contaminants.



Recommendation

The Governor recommends an appropriation of **\$1.5 million funded by general obligation bonds and \$650,000 in general fund cash** for grants to address contaminated drinking water.

Eligible projects could include drinking water treatment systems for contaminated wells, drilling new wells in uncontaminated areas, or connecting homes with private wells to public drinking water systems. The general fund cash component is necessary to ensure project completion even if certain project components are non-bondable.

Sustainable construction and demolition waste transition

Unlined construction & demolition (C&D) landfills allow pollution to migrate freely into soil, groundwater, or surface water. Groundwater monitoring has found pollutants, including arsenic, boron, manganese, PFAS, and VOCs, leaving unlined landfills and measurable at levels that exceed drinking water values. There are currently 40 unlined C&D landfills owned and operated by local units of government throughout Minnesota.



MPCA has initiated rulemaking to ensure that permitting and solid waste rules reflect current knowledge of how unlined C&D landfills impact the environment and human health. In parallel with this rulemaking, the agency also seeks to provide financial support to help communities transition away from unlined C&D landfills.

Recommendation

The Governor recommends an appropriation of **\$5 million funded by general obligation bonds** for grants to help local governments close and transition away from unlined C&D landfills. Eligible uses could include design and construction costs for new transfer stations or mixed-use facilities or for cover systems for unlined C&D landfills.

Addressing legacy contamination through Superfund

Groundwater, surface water, and wetland sediment in the area around the Hibbing gas manufacturing plant are contaminated with free-phase coal tar and other contaminants of concern. The site is located near a proposed affordable housing development. Cleanup would include removal of coal tar, contaminated soil, and below-ground infrastructure. This work would significantly reduce the risk to human health and would improve the surrounding environment for the community.



Recommendation

The Governor recommends amending a previous appropriation from 2020 to add remediation of the Hibbing gas manufacturing plant site as an eligible Superfund project. **This recommendation is budget-neutral** and no new funds are requested.

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