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Subject: Appeal hearing at City Council regarding discharge of 80 million gallons of pollutant into aquifer
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Friends of Pig's Eye Lake Park – Tom Dimond

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Eastside residents are counting on the City Council to protect residents from known pollution. Discharging 80 million gallons of pollutant into our neighborhood degrades the water and health of BIPOC majority neighborhoods. It threatens residents, wildlife, and property values.

MPCA announced they will install and maintain whole house filters in our neighborhood. The problem is PFOS. PFOS pollution from previous dumping threatens the residents and wildlife in our community.

Who wants to live next to a pollution dump site? We have two Superfund sites. Pollution threatens our health and the health of wildlife. It is hard selling a house when you disclose to the buyer the water is polluted, two superfund sites, and 80 million gallons of pollutant being discharged into the park. What should be wonderful assets, become warnings not to drink the water or enter the park.

The latest EPA health advisory limit is 0.02 parts per trillion for PFOS

Pig's Eye Lake tested at 1.1 parts per trillion for PFOS – 55 times higher than the EPA health advisory

The pollutant being discharged into our lake and water table tested at averages of 9.1 and 28.4 with a 80.2 maximum. These are significantly higher pollution levels than currently are in the lake.

The lowest average of 9.1 is 455 times higher than the EPA health advisory.

The 2016 MPCA SRV for PFOS was 1,700 – that is 85,000 times higher than the 2022 EPA advisory that was issued prior to discharge of pollutant into our water supply. State Law prohibits discharge of *any* pollutant.

Testing of eggs in the Heron Rookery SNA at Pig's Eye Lake found some of the highest pollution levels identified in the world. Carp in the lake registered PFOS levels of 10.2. Eagles, Herons, Egrets, Pelicans, Beaver, Otter and many others eat the fish. Increasing PFOS pollution levels increases the risk to wildlife. Discharge of toxic pollution does not enhance wildlife habitat.

The health threat to current and future generations depends on compliance with EPA's PFOS Health Advisory – The proposed 80-million-gallon discharge of pollutant greatly exceeds EPA limits

On June 15, 2022, the Environmental Protection Agency issued a health advisory that set health risk thresholds for PFOA and PFOS to near zero. **“People on the front-lines of PFAS contamination have suffered for far too long,” EPA Administrator Michael Regan said. “That is why EPA is taking aggressive action as part of a whole-of-government approach to prevent these chemicals from entering the environment and to help protect concerned families from this pervasive challenge”. The revised health guidelines are based on new science and considered lifetime exposure to the chemicals, the EPA said. The “forever chemicals” bond are so strong that they do not degrade or do so only slowly in the environment and remain in a person’s blood stream indefinitely.**

Previously, EPA set the health advisory for PFOA and PFOS at 70 parts per trillion. The new limits are much lower, at 0.004 parts per trillion for PFOA and 0.02 parts per trillion for PFOS. Last year, EPA found PFOA and PFOS to be a greater health threat than previously believed.

“Today’s announcement should set off alarm bells for consumers and regulators.” Said Melanie Benesh a legislative attorney at the Environmental Working Group. These proposed advisory levels demonstrate that we must move much faster to dramatically reduce exposures to these toxic chemicals.”

The Minnesota Legislature approved \$800,000 for the cleanup of Pig's Eye. The dump contains PFAS and other pollutants. St. Paul must ensure that any dumping within the park does not exceed EPA's health advisories and State Law.

PFAS is colorless, odorless chemicals that remain in a person's blood stream indefinitely. PFAS stays in water, soil, fish, birds, and humans. It has a cumulative effect. Park visitors, birds and fish have no way of avoiding this unseen toxic threat. Our elected officials must

ensure toxic chemicals are not discharged into our public lands and waters.

State Law sets the OHWL of a reservoir as the summer pool elevation. The reservoir behind the Hastings Dam is maintained at a summer pool elevation of 686.8 feet at Pig's Eye. The lake surface is the OHWL. The MOU is limited to sections of the river with barge traffic and does not apply to Pig's Eye. State law does not limit the definition of a reservoir to flood control.

Saint Paul requires review and permit approval for work above the water. Saint Paul has authority above the water. Photos show filling and grading up to 20 feet above the water level. Grading and filling without an approved City permit is in violation of Saint Paul's zoning code and Critical Area regulations.

The State sued 3M because they discharged PFOS.

3M had to pay \$850 million for the cleanup.

Who will be responsible for the cleanup cost of PFOS being discharged now?

It is the same pollutant with the same health threat to people and wildlife that cost 3M \$850 million.