

The New York Times

National Desk; A

MINNESOTA MINING TO CLEAN UP WASTE DUMP

Special to the New York Times

548 words

21 July 1983

The New York Times

NYTF

Late City Final Edition

English

Copyright 1983 The New York Times Company. All Rights Reserved.

OAKDALE, Minn., July 20 -- The Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company has announced plans to spend more than \$6 million to clean up three abandoned dumps here that environmental officials say have contaminated ground water and soil with hazardous chemical wastes.

The cleanup proposal by the diversified manufacturing concern, widely known as 3M, was tentatively approved last week by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

The 3M project in Oakdale, a suburb of St. Paul, would be the second major cleanup of a hazardous waste area in Minnesota to be financed entirely by a private company. Last month officials approved a plan by the FMC Corporation, a munitions manufacturer, to spend \$6 million to clean up a site in Fridley, a suburb of Minneapolis. The Federal environmental agency says the Fridley dump is the nation's most dangerous.

Sites Near 3M Headquarters

Although the dumps in Oakdale are considered less threatening to public health and the environment, the 3M project would be larger and more expensive than the cleanup in Fridley. The three dumps, which Minnesota officials say contain thousands of barrels of chemical wastes, are clustered in a large sparsely populated tract in Oakdale, a community of 13,000 people just east of 3M's headquarters in St. Paul.

A private contractor used the dumps from the late 1940's through the 50's to dispose of wastes generated by 3M, the largest industrial company in Minnesota, and several other concerns.

The wastes, including such toxic chemicals as benzene and ethyl benzene, have contaminated several private wells in Oakdale that draw water from a shallow aquifer beneath the dumps. Exposure to benzene and ethyl benzene has been known to cause cancer in humans, according to Federal officials.

The 3M cleanup plan calls for excavation and removal of the buried barrels. The chemical wastes would be incinerated at a nearby 3M facility or hauled to an approved hazardous waste landfill in another state. Minnesota does not have such a landfill. Monitoring Plan Approved

The company has agreed to dispose of contaminated soil, to pump out contaminated ground water from the shallow aquifer and to prevent chemical wastes from seeping into deeper aquifers. In addition, 3M would pay for monitoring for 30 years to insure that its cleanup program did not threaten health or the environment.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency first learned of widespread contamination at the site late in 1980. Shortly after, 3M offered to pay for an extensive investigation of the abandoned dump. Lowell Ludford, a company spokesman, said it had spent more than \$1 million on the investigation, which was carried out by a private engineering concern.

He said that expense was exclusive of the more than \$6 million 3M expects to spend on the cleanup and monitoring. The company will also reimburse the Federal and state governments for \$70,000 they jointly incurred investigating the Oakdale dumps.

Mr. Ludford said the cleanup plan was, in part, the result of long negotiations with state and Federal environmental officials. In return for the company's financing of the project, those officials would drop any legal action they might have contemplated against 3M to force a cleanup.

Document NYTF000020050511df7l01a7y

Search Summary

Text	
Date	All Dates
Source	Newspapers: All
Author	All Authors
Company	3M Company
Subject	All Subjects
Industry	All Industries
Region	United States
Language	English
Results Found	4,351
Timestamp	17 July 2018 11:24