

# INVEST IN CLEAN DRINKING WATER

## PFAS AND NITRATES TREATMENT



### ABOUT PFAS IN HASTINGS

Public health and safety are top priorities for City of Hastings leaders, and “forever chemicals” are present in all six city wells. The City of Hastings is located 20 miles south of St. Paul and serves 23,000 people with drinking water. An emerging contaminant for Hastings is PFAS (specifically PFOA and PFOS). With EPA limits, Hastings drinking water exceeds safe drinking levels. These chemicals can accumulate in the body and can lead to cancer, reproductive, heart and other organ and immunological effects. Additionally, Hastings has elevated nitrate levels in its water supply (causes blue baby syndrome). Adding nitrate treatment to this project is cost effective and will help protect against the additivity of multiple contaminants.

The City of Hastings requests \$18.4 M and \$20.7 M in state funds for construction of the Eastern and Western Water Treatment Plants (WTPs) to remove PFAS and nitrates from city drinking water. The Eastern WTP includes delivering safe drinking water to the Minnesota Veterans Home. Construction of the overall project is \$70.3 M.

### State Request:

**\$18.4 M Eastern WTP**

**\$20.7 M Western WTP**

### Project Overview

- Feasibility study evaluated several alternatives and recommend construction of 3 WTPs. Approved by Minnesota Department of Health.
- Each plant would use GAC (granular activated carbon) treatment for PFAS removal and IX (ion exchange) for nitrate removal to address the water chemistry of each well connection. Three plants allows for the delivery of treatment to the built environment of the existing water system and for redundancy if issues occur in any one of the plants.
- Without additional funding, Hastings water rates will increase 150% over four years, making the City of Hastings water rates among the highest in the entire metropolitan area. And it has the potential to degrade the City's AA+ bond rating, which would impact the cost of all city infrastructure projects for years to come.
- The State has the ability to recover funds expended for pollution remediation under State statute, and has examples of having done so in the past. Investigations with the MPCA specific to the Hastings area are currently ongoing and have connected one well to the 3M East Metro Settlement Funds. We believe the remaining well field will show interconnections, but cannot continue to wait on removal of this contamination.

### Eastern WTP

- Total cost \$22.3 M, requesting \$18.3 M in state funds.
- Ranked #2 on state 2025 Project Priority List (PPL)
- Includes interconnect of Minnesota Veterans Home
- Shovel ready, construction scheduled to begin in Summer 2026.

### Western WTP

- Total cost \$21.7 M, requesting \$20.7 M in state funds.
- Construction scheduled to begin 2027.

### Central WTP

- Total cost \$26.3 M.
- Construction started September of 2025.

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Eastern Water Treatment Plant



GAC treatment vessels to remove PFAS



## TIMING AND ACTION TO DATE

The city plans to phase in construction of the three plants, with one plant each year, starting in 2025 and ending in 2029. Funding is needed now to avoid further delays in delivering safe drinking water to residents and businesses and to comply with new EPA limits.

In anticipation of new EPA limits, the city has taken the following steps:

- Hired WSB to undertake a feasibility study to consider alternatives and to develop a project scope and cost estimate. The study has been approved by the Minnesota Department of Health.
- Submitted to the state's Drinking Water Revolving Fund Project Priority List in spring 2023 and Intended Use Plan (IUP) in 2024. The Eastern WTP is **ranked #2** on the 2025 Project Priority List.
- Received \$3.2 million PFAS Planning & Design Grant through MPCA for design work and bidding for construction.
- Working with MPCA to identify potential sources and locations of PFAS contributing to groundwater contamination. In October 2024, the MPCA approved one well within the central WTP eligible for \$15.1 M in funding through the State's 2018 3M Settlement.
- The MPCA has requested 3M Company to investigate and model groundwater in the Hastings vicinity. The investigative work plan continues in 2025.
- The city is working with elected officials including Sen. Judy Seeberger and Rep. Tom Dippel. SF 748 and HF 1192 were introduced during the 2025 session in support of the project.
- Construction of the Central WTP began in September 2025. The Eastern WTP is **shovel ready** and scheduled to start in summer of 2026.
- The city has had extensive **public meetings, communication and media coverage** about PFAS and proposed treatment.

## Minnesota Veterans Home

The Minnesota Veterans Home owns and operates their own water system that has PFAS contaminants in its water supply exceeding the EPA limits, which will require mitigation. With successful funding of the PFAS Treatment for the City of Hastings, the city would interconnect the city's water supply to the Vets Home to efficiently deliver clean drinking water for its residents and employees.

