



## **CITY OF OAKDALE, MINNESOTA**

*-established 1974-*

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October 26, 2006

# **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **OAKDALE CELEBRATES DEDICATION OF NEW WATER TREATMENT FACILITY**

On Tuesday night, the Oakdale City Council celebrated the dedication of the new Oakdale Water Treatment Facility, located at the Oakdale Public Works Campus. The facility is the result of action taken by the City of Oakdale and the 3M Corporation, to address and effectively “scrub” out the presence of perfluorochemicals or PFC’s detected in the water supply. It is also the first full-scale treatment facility of its kind for the removal of PFC’s in the country.

The process began in late 2004 and early 2005, when the 3M Corporation, the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota conducted tests of municipal drinking water in Oakdale and several area communities. In Oakdale, the tests detected the presence of PFOS/PFOA, though at levels below the Department of Health based values.

In response, Oakdale city officials worked quickly to fully understand the situation and to provide all available information to residents. In August 2005, the City announced an agreement between the 3M Corporation and Oakdale to effectively treat the water supply. The agreement included provisions that 3M would design, construct and operate a granular-activated carbon system for Well #5 and Well #9. 3M is also responsible for the operational costs of the facility for the first five years and until such time as the raw water contamination levels drop below agency established values for a minimum of two years.

In March 2006, the City Council approved the special use permit and design for the new treatment facility and construction commenced in April. The construction of the 7,000 square-foot facility was completed on schedule, involving over 12,000 labor hours and was financed by 3M at an estimated cost of \$2.5 million. In addition, the granular activated carbon technology should not only remove the PFC’s from the water system, but also improve the taste and odor of the water.

With the dedication of the treatment facility, the City of Oakdale and 3M have begun testing to ensure the highest level of water quality, as it is anticipated to come fully online in early November. The treatment facility will treat 2,500 gallons per minute from two of Oakdale's municipal wells. The two wells will become the primary wells for Oakdale and have the capacity to supply virtually all of the community's daily water needs.

Mayor Carmen Sarrack, speaking on behalf of the Oakdale City Council, stated, "We are extremely pleased with this project, and with the 3M Corporation for working with us to develop this solution. The City and 3M have worked very diligently to address the health and safety issues that are of paramount concern to the residents and community of Oakdale. This new facility will ensure the safety of our water supply and greatly benefit our community."



*Pictured at the ribbon cutting of the new facility from left to right are: Public Works Director Brian Bachmeier, Utility Supervisor Chris Sonterre, Parks Supervisor Randy Bastyr, Councilmember Kent Dotas, Mayor Carmen Sarrack, Councilmember Stan Karwoski, Councilmember Lori Pulkrabek, Planning Commissioner Duane Ellertson, Councilmember Paul Reinke, and Planning Commissioner Marianne Oie.*

# **CITY OF OAKDALE**

## Water Treatment Timeline

- December 2004, Department of Health runs initial test to confirm presence of PFC's in City wells
- January 2005, Department of Health notifies City, tests confirm presence of PFC's
- January 2005, City sends out informational letter to water customers, and conducts press conference
- August 2005, City and 3M enter into a Memorandum of Agreement to construct treatment facility
- March 2006, City approves plans and authorizes construction of treatment facility
- April 2006 Construction commences
- October 2006 Construction complete
- November 2006 treatment facility goes into operation



# **OAKDALE WATER TREATMENT FACILITY FACT SHEET**

**Construction Cost \$2,500,000 (estimate)**

**First full-scale treatment facility for  
removal of PFCs in the country**

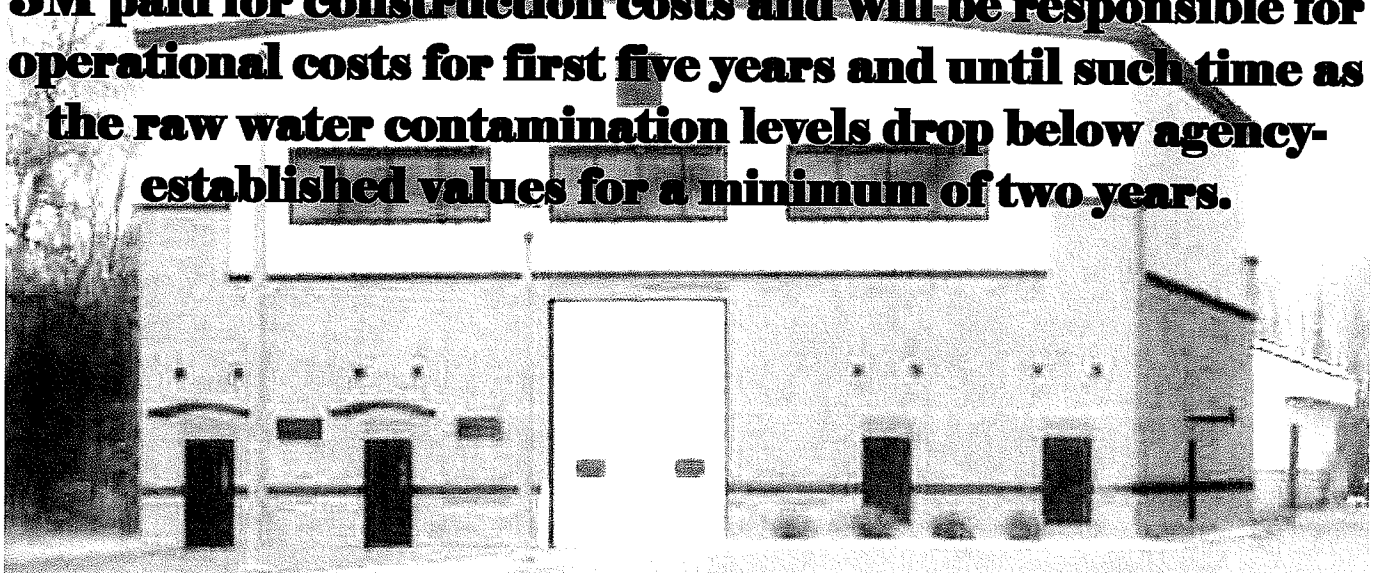
**Granular activated carbon technology is used by  
numerous water suppliers to improve taste and odor**

**Facility constructed over an eight-month period**

**Involved over 12,000 labor hours**

**Facility will treat 2,500 gallons per minute from two  
municipal wells. Treated water will be free of PFCs.  
Two wells will become primary wells for Oakdale and have  
capacity to supply virtually all average daily water needs.**

**3M paid for construction costs and will be responsible for  
operational costs for first five years and until such time as  
the raw water contamination levels drop below agency-  
established values for a minimum of two years.**



**For more information, please call (651) 730-2730**