



March 20, 2023

The Honorable Tom Emmer  
United States House of Representatives  
464 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Emmer,

I am writing this letter to express support for considering the Otsego Drinking Water Treatment Improvements Project to receive federal funding. The Project is focused on the health and wellness of the community by improving the drinking water quality.

The City's current drinking water is sourced from groundwater wells, which unfortunately contain increased levels of radium and manganese. The City has reached an agreement to blend water from multiple wells to meet radium regulations from the Minnesota Department of Health, which is only a temporary solution. Additionally, in November 2021, the Minnesota Department of Health issued a Health Risk Advisory for manganese levels in the City's drinking water wells and recommended the City take action to reduce exposure to manganese.

The benefits of this project include:

- Addition of treatment infrastructure to remove radium and manganese.
- Supporting local construction jobs.
- Support the health and wellness of Minnesotans.

The City is requesting \$3.4 million of federal funding for the \$4.25 million project. The City of Otsego has committed to financing the remaining 20 percent of the project with local funding generated from user fees of the residents and businesses within the City. If we receive this funding, project design is assumed to start in February 2024 and construction completed by November 2025.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica L. Stockamp". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jessica L. Stockamp  
Mayor  
City of Otsego, MN

**m** DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH

PROTECTING, MAINTAINING & IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF ALL MINNESOTANS

April 12, 2022

City of Otsego  
c/o Adam Flaherty, City Administrator  
13400 90<sup>th</sup> Street NE  
Otsego, Minnesota 55330

Dear Mr. Flaherty,

Subject: DWSRF Eligibility, City of Otsego, Wright County, Minnesota

This letter is intended to provide proof of eligibility for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). DWSRF provides funding for drinking water improvements needed to maintain compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. The Otsego project as describe to the Minnesota Department of Health includes water treatment improvements necessary to remove manganese and radium from the drinking water. This project would be eligible for DWSRF funding. If you have any questions, please contact me at 651/201-3972.

Sincerely,



Chad M. Kolstad, P.E.  
DWRF Program Coordinator  
Section of Drinking Water Protection  
P.O. Box 64975  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0975

November 22, 2021

Otsego City Council  
 13400 90<sup>th</sup> Street NE  
 Otsego, MN 55330

**Subject: Health Risk Advisory for Manganese in Otsego Drinking Water System (PWSID# 1860026)**

Dear Council Members:

This letter is to notify you that the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) is issuing a Health Risk Advisory for manganese at Combined Discharge 2, Combined Discharge 3, and Well #7 entry points.

**MDH recommends that the city of Otsego notify its consumers as soon as possible about manganese in their drinking water supply.** It is important that people consuming the water be informed about any potential health risks and actions they can take to reduce exposure to manganese within their own home, as well as any actions the water system is taking. We encourage the water system to lead this messaging.

**In addition, MDH recommends that the city of Otsego take action to reduce exposure to manganese to below the Health-Based Value (HBV) of 100 µg/L in the drinking water supply.** Examples of actions to reduce exposure may include reducing the use of wells with manganese above the HBV, adding treatment to remove manganese, or optimizing existing manganese treatment.

**Sample Results**

MDH has collected samples for manganese and the results are shown in the table below. The average level of manganese at Combined Discharge 2, Combined Discharge 3, and Well #7 exceeds the HBV of 100 µg/L. In addition, the average level of manganese at Combined Discharge 2 and Well #7 exceeds the EPA lifetime Health Advisory Level of 300 µg/L. Therefore, MDH is issuing this Health Risk Advisory.

**Otsego Sample Results**

Sample Location	Mn (µg/L) 1 <sup>st</sup> Round	Mn (µg/L) 2 <sup>nd</sup> Round	Average Mn (µg/L)
Combined Discharge 2	<b>300</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>310.5</b>
Well #4	<b>292</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>292</b>
Well #5	<b>267</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>313.5</b>
Combined Discharge 3	<b>152</b>	53.7	<b>102.85</b>
Well #3	<b>160</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>152.5</b>
Well #8	12.3	10.5	11.4
Well #7 Entry Point	<b>705</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>698</b>
Well #6	-	100	-
Well #9	-	73.4	-

µg/L = micrograms per liter

**Bold** means that the concentration exceeds a MDH Health-Based Value or Health Risk Limit

**Bold with Italics** means that the concentration also exceeds the EPA lifetime Health Advisory Level

## HBV and Health Effects for Manganese

MDH has set a HBV for manganese of 100 µg/L for formula-fed infants and infants that drink tap water. For children over one year old and adults, MDH supports the EPA lifetime Health Advisory Level of 300 µg/L, which is the concentration of manganese that is not expected to cause any adverse health effects for a lifetime of exposure. Results for manganese in samples collected from your water system were higher than each of these guidance values. Therefore, it is recommended that you communicate to residents about the health risks to people of all ages.

Health-based guidance values are set at levels which pose little or no health risk to people, including the most sensitive populations like a fetus, infants, children, elderly, and people with impaired immunity. Although the potential for harm increases as the level of a contaminant increases above the health-based guidance value, health scientists may not be able to precisely estimate the change in risk. These guidance values apply to short periods of time as well as over a lifetime of exposure.

Manganese occurs naturally in rocks and soil across Minnesota and is commonly found in Minnesota ground and surface water. People need some manganese to stay healthy, but too much can be harmful to the nervous system. Infants may develop learning and behavior problems if they drink water or formula made with water that has too much manganese in it. Children and adults who drink water with high levels of manganese for a long time may have problems with memory, attention, and motor skills.

### For More Information

As a standard practice, MDH notifies the governor's office and area legislators when health risk advisory letters are issued. In addition, MDH is sending a copy of this letter to your local public health department.

MDH intends to meet with you to discuss future actions related to manganese and will be contacting you soon to discuss such a meeting. In the interim, if you have any questions about health concerns or would like more information about manganese, contact the MDH Health Risk Assessment Unit at 651-201-4899 or [health.risk@state.mn.us](mailto:health.risk@state.mn.us). For technical assistance related to drinking water, please contact Kim Larsen, District Engineer Supervisor, at 320-223-7330 or [kim.larsen@state.mn.us](mailto:kim.larsen@state.mn.us). More information about manganese is also available on our website at [Manganese in Drinking Water \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/manganese.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/manganese.html).

Sincerely,



Dale F. Dorschner  
Assistant Division Director, Environmental Health Division  
Minnesota Department of Health  
PO Box 64975  
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975  
[www.health.state.mn.us](http://www.health.state.mn.us)

cc: [Kim Larsen, District Engineer Supervisor, MDH St. Cloud District Office](#)  
[Chad Kolstad, MDH DWRP Program Coordinator](#)  
[Sarah Fossen-Johnson, Supervisor, MDH Health Risk Assessment Unit](#)  
[Kris Klos, Research Scientist, MDH Health Risk Assessment Unit](#)  
[Sarah Grosshuesch, Wright County Public Health](#)

To obtain this information in a different format, call 651-201-4700. Printed on recycled paper.