

This Development Could Jeopardize Our Drinking Water Quality

This proposed development should first focus on the health and well being of the citizens most impacted by the development, the neighborhood. How could a business like a digestive clinic which deals with health and medicine do otherwise responsibly? This entire development will be within the WHPA Zone A of Madison Municipal Well #14. This means that pollutants on the ground surface could enter our drinking water supply in five years or less.

Prior to any construction at the proposed Whitney Way/University site a thorough site characterization should be done. Any proposed development should also present the findings of a full level 2 environmental assessment to the public since over 17,000 Madison residents receive their daily drinking water from directly below the proposed development which is served by Madison Municipal well #14. Liability for any degradation to our drinking water due to construction or during the construction process including demolition should also be clearly defined and delineated prior to beginning construction. By their own admission only a "limited" phase 2 site assessment has been conducted. This was conducted by URS the same company that inspected the I 35 West Bridge in St. Paul Minneapolis and later paid out a five million dollar settlement after the bridge collapse resulted in 13 fatalities during rush hour August 1, 2007.

Regarding their "limited phase 2 study" it consisted of 15 soil borings on 14 plus acres of land. Adjacent land to my knowledge has not been inspected in this "limited" site characterization. As you've perhaps recently read, vapor plumes have been detected around homes near the Madison Kipp Corporation on Madison's east side, plumes could be present on the Whitney Way and University Ave. site caused by the high level of degreasers at the car lots, auto body shops and gas stations or from the 250 gallons of diesel fuel spilled 450ft from the wellhead in December of 1992. For the proposed construction vast amounts of soil will be disturbed and some excavated. This can result in increased mobility of plumes or the dissipation of the plumes (not a bad thing) but other potential pollutants could also migrate. At this point no one has the evidence that the site is either hazardous or safe. But here is some information I think indicates the city and the developer should be much more thorough before they begin demolition or construction.

I've researched the area businesses which have existed there since 1958 which is two years prior to Madison Municipal well #14 going on line. There were many businesses which would now be prohibited on a Well Head Protected Zone A* which could have polluted the soil. gasoline stations, auto body shops, furniture strippers, a printing press, clinic, Erdman's own early metal and wood fabrication for Techline, a plastics fabrication business, paint and solvent warehouse, 7UP bottling plant which serviced it's fleet of vehicles on the property and a used car lot. The site still also has at least two known underground storage tanks. Abandoned without product UST: 1,111-gallon leaded gasoline (Tank ID No. 273077) Abandoned without Product UST: 1,111-gallon contents unknown (Tank ID No. 273078).

From the Capital City Courage - MFD book, page 38, **1976 NOTABLE ALARMS** (June 25): "A ball of flame from a malfunctioning infra-red oven caused a \$225,000.00 fire that destroyed a building at 602 North Whitney Way which housed Industrial Finishing, Inc. a woodworking firm." This 40 by 200 foot building housed Industrial Refinishing Incorporated. The amount of water to fight the fire was so great that city water officials had to be notified to increase the water pressure. Five fire companies battled the fire with thirteen fire trucks...they also had to return hours later after it rekindled.

Research exists which suggests that the elevated chromium 6 found in well #14 could be attributable to some of the above mentioned businesses. Well 14 is also monitored more frequently than most other city wells in the city for VOCs. (volatile organic compounds) Readings at Well 14 indicate that recently VOCs in our drinking water have been decreasing however chloride levels have jumped over 700% since the 1970's due to road salting. Well 14 has the highest percentage of sodium chloride of any well in Madison and it exceeds the EPA guideline level. The well measured 34 milligrams while the guideline level is 20mg. This impacts those with high blood pressure, infants, young children and those with weakened immune systems.

In a report by the Environmental Working Group, the level of chromium-6 discovered in a Well 14 area water tap was 1.58 the fourth-highest of the test results from 35 cities studied nationwide by the organization. Further testing by the city measured an even higher number of 1.79 ppb a proposed California safety standard would be 0.02 ppb The well also has a shallow casing which runs 117 feet down leaving 598 uncased allowing for unfettered access by pollutants. Given the current budgetary problems if the well becomes polluted the city of Madison will be hard pressed to find funds to properly address the problems which would run in the millions of dollars. A Construction site risk manager, hydrologists and a professor of environmental engineering have all indicated to me that concern is warranted on this site.

Lets not confuse issues here this is not about depriving people jobs and it is not about stopping this development it is about insuring caution where caution is warranted. Proceeding with caution this could be an asset to the neighborhood. However no civilization and no economy has sustained itself without clean ground water even if the risk probability is low polluted drinking water is a high impact risk that must be fully addressed!

If clean ground water is important to you please email photo4u@michaelkienitz.com or call (608) 231-6184