Key Points – Cottage Grove Fish Data

- This data represents a snapshot of the presence of these substances in fish samples. It is important to avoid making inferences or conclusions based on this one set of data. What we can conclude is that more work needs to be done, and this will be coordinated with the MPCA.
- 3M has an ongoing assessment at Cottage Grove of the company’s historical use and manufacturing of FC’s. This investigation involves groundwater, soils (surface and subsurface), surface waters, sediments and fish. 3M’s research is coordinated with the MPCA and all of 3M’s data is forwarded to the agency.
- As part of this investigation 3M collected 62 fish samples from the Mississippi River near the plant site in August of 2005. The fish were analyzed to determine the presence of four FC-related compounds. The analysis of the samples was recently completed and delivered to the MPCA in early March of 2006.
- In reviewing any collection of scientific data it is important to focus on the weight of evidence of the entire data set. Unusually large or small values need to be looked at in the context of all of the data collected.
- The sample size included 62 fish samples and the sampling took place close to the river bank near the 3M site.
- The results indicate the presence of PFOS in catfish, smallmouth bass and sunfish. The testing included whole body analysis, where the PFOS ranged between 11 parts per billion to one sample of 9000 parts per billion. Filet samples ranged between two parts per billion and 5,150 parts per billion. The median results from whole body analysis was 55 parts per billion, and the median for filets was 44 parts per billion.
- The concentrations found in the fish generally fall well below levels that would result in adverse effects, based on laboratory studies of PFOS, PFOA and analogous lower chain (C4) homologues.
- The mere presence of any material in an organism does not necessarily equate to health impacts.
- This data submittal will be discussed with the agencies involved to determine the next steps in this investigation. 3M is committed to do further study and coordinate this work with the MPCA.
The water concentrations in the same area of the fish collection are quite low.

PFOS and several other compounds have been the focus of the site investigation based on the site’s historical manufacture and use of the compounds in Cottage Grove. In addition, these compounds have been well-researched by 3M and other researchers around the world. This research supports the conclusion that there are no adverse human health effects caused by PFOS and PFOA.

In terms of this fish data, we defer to the environmental health professionals at MDH and MPCA to assess this data in terms of the potential for effects.

3M has phased out manufacturing of PFOS and PFOA. Our emissions have been reduced over 95% from before our phase out. The concentrations found in the fish generally fall well below levels that would result in adverse effects, based on laboratory studies of PFOS, PFOA and analogous lower chain (C4) homologues.