*Minnesota state agencies share the EPA’s concern and commitment to protecting drinking water quality and residents’ health by addressing nitrate contamination in southeastern Minnesota. Porous geology makes the area uniquely susceptible to groundwater contamination produced by agricultural runoff, wastewater, and faulty septic systems, especially as extreme weather events brought on by climate change continue to put additional pressure on groundwater resources.*

*The EPA has requested the Minnesota Department of Health, Department of Agriculture, and Pollution Control Agency develop a coordinated and comprehensive work plan to identify and contact residents impacted by nitrate contamination, conduct drinking water testing, and offer alternate drinking water and we are committed to working together to accomplish this.*

*By coordinating with many partners, Minnesota is currently implementing long-term strategies to reduce nitrate groundwater from agricultural practices through fertilizer storage and management planning and improved application. While progress has been made, more work is required by state agencies, local governments, and industry partners to reduce nitrate levels in our lakes, streams, and groundwater to protect drinking water for all Minnesotans.*

*Our agencies will respond to the EPA within 30 days, as required.*