Crestwood officials cut corners and supplied residents with tainted water for 2 decades

There are two decades, the 11,000 in Crestwood unknowingly drank tap water contaminated with toxic chemicals linked to cancer and other health problems, a Newspaper investigation found.

"You would expect them to tell their constituents what’s in the water they’re drinking.” — John Callerton

By Michael Hawthorne
STAFF REPORTER

In the Democratic-con trolled court’s decision, the majority and the concurrence: “clearly, plainly and palpably” violate the state’s constitution — relying on it for up to 20 years.

Since then, the EPA has cited Crestwood twice for violating environmental laws, yet has failed to notify people who drank the well water for years. The agency continues to investigate, and Illinois Atty. Gen. Lisa Madigan’s office also is looking into the matter.

The most likely source of the contamination is a refinery that closed in a strip mall less than 200 feet from Crest- wood’s well, just across a narrow, tree-lined creek that drains into the nearby Cal Sag Channel.

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CONTAMINANTS FOUND

- Perchloroethylene (PCE), found in amounts that are non-enforceable because of the science-based contaminant’s non-enforceable level.

- Vinyl chloride (VOC) found in an amount that is nearly twice the EPA safe level.

- Trihalomethanes (THMs), found in an amount that is about three times the EPA safe level.

- Tetrachloroethylene (PCE), found in an amount that is about five times the EPA safe level.

- Chloroform (CF), found in an amount that is about seven times the EPA safe level.

- 1,4-dichloro-2-naphthalene (1,4-DCN), found in an amount that is about 10 times the EPA safe level.

- 1,2-dichloroethane (1,2-DCA), found in an amount that is about 15 times the EPA safe level.

- 1,1-dichloroethane (1,1-DCA), found in an amount that is about 20 times the EPA safe level.

- styrene, found in an amount that is about 30 times the EPA safe level.

- toluene, found in an amount that is about 40 times the EPA safe level.

- benzene, found in an amount that is about 50 times the EPA safe level.

- formaldehyde, found in an amount that is about 100 times the EPA safe level.

- hexane, found in an amount that is about 200 times the EPA safe level.

- acetaldehyde, found in an amount that is about 300 times the EPA safe level.