

Is Your Water Safe to Drink?

For Release: August 24, 2005

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(PRWEB) August 24, 2005 -- James P. McMahon is an ecologist with over 30 years experience in river restoration, water quality issues, and as one of the original founders of the recycling movement in this country. Ten years ago McMahon turned his focus to water and now provides consulting services and water purification systems to consumers and businesses who want healthy water in their homes or businesses. His work to save endangered fish in our rivers led to an understanding of the extent to which our surface waters are polluted.

According to McMahon, "This country's public water supplies are unhealthy. We've unwittingly polluted our water supplies with a wide variety of chemicals, many of those unregulated, and all still present when the water arrives at your home. The problem originates with the fact that we use our water both as a waste disposal system and as the source of our drinking water." Please visit <http://www.cleanairpurewater.com> to learn what you can do for your family now.

McMahon cites several studies that prove this point while also providing a way for consumers to be certain that they're doing all they can to protect their families. A recent study by the US Geologic Survey identified 62 unregulated chemicals in the surface waters around Denver, CO. Another study by USGS found that 80% of the surface waters it tested, ranging across the US, contained measurable amounts of these unregulated contaminants.

McMahon asks you this: "Have you ever taken your daily vitamins and later urinated and then wondered when you see that bright yellow color in the toilet? Well, vitamins are only one small example of what's found in our water today. The exact same thing happens with pharmaceuticals, such as hormones or prozac, and caffeine. This problem is epidemic."

Household cleaners, detergents, insecticides, runoff from roads and other common chemicals also end up in our water. Other larger sources of pollutants are the herbicides and pesticides applied to lawns or farm fields or the chemicals discharged by industries which then flow into surface waters used as a water source by downstream residents. Even groundwater sources have become contaminated, though to a lesser extent, by continued application of chemical treatments to the land that serves as its recharge

area. As many as 32% of all private wells are also estimated to be contaminated.

McMahon adds, "In the past, dilution was thought to be the solution to pollution. That saying has become grossly outdated and we now face serious challenges with hundreds of chemicals in water the public is led to believe is safe."

Traditional water treatment methods used by public agencies are designed only to rid the water of dangerous microorganisms such as bacteria. The chlorine or chloramines added to water by public agencies to kill bacteria are themselves poisons and create additional poisons. Scientists have clearly demonstrated that when chlorine reacts with other organic matter in water it creates by-products such as the trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids, both known carcinogens. Trihalomethanes are suspected of being responsible for 2-17% of the diagnosed cases of bladder cancer in the US. Chlorine itself is harmful to the human body and may be both ingested either when drinking water or in the shower or inhaled when it converts to a gas in the shower.

"We've been incredibly cavalier in our attitude toward water and the environment. And once again it's catching up to us. Water provided to consumers by public agencies, especially water coming from lakes or rivers, is polluted and unhealthy," says McMahon.

"Frankly, it's impossible to treat for all the contaminants in our water. But the time has come to square with the public and let them know that what they're drinking is unsafe," he continues.

In a study released in July and spearheaded by the Environmental Working Group (EWG) in collaboration with Commonweal, researchers at two major laboratories found an average of 200 industrial chemicals and pollutants in the umbilical cord blood from 10 babies born in August and September of 2004 in U.S. hospitals.

McMahon asserts that, "just as the water softener became a household item in the 50s, water purification systems will become commonplace in the coming years. If you want to drink water that is healthy, that is cleansed of contaminants, you have to treat it yourself."

"I hope that people will take advantage of my Ultimate Guide to learn the facts about their drinking water and take the steps to protect themselves," says McMahon.

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