



Pharmaceuticals in Drinking Water

Responding to media reports, Waters Corp. offers a way for large water utilities to be proactive in testing for pharmaceuticals in drinking water

The Associated Press (AP) and Chicago Tribune have recently published reports on trace amounts of pharmaceuticals found in community drinking supplies across the nation. Immediately following the AP report, Waters Corp. began offering complimentary and confidential testing for common over-the-counter medications and antidepressants in drinking water to water authorities that serve 100,000 customers or more.

Clare Pierson, associate editor of *Water & Wastes Digest*, talked to Rohit Khanna, vice president of worldwide marketing for the Waters Division, about why the company made this offer and how drinking water utilities should respond to the results.

Clare Pierson: Have any water authorities taken advantage of the Waters Corp.'s offer of complimentary testing for pharmaceutical compounds and other chemicals? How much longer do utilities have to submit a request for this free testing?

Rohit Khanna: Yes, many water utilities have submitted samples for complimentary screening on the Waters AquaAnalysis system. We are bound by confidentiality in discussing any specifics about these requests, but what has been most exciting about the response has been the shift in the conversation from talk of concerns and crisis to discussions of cooperation to better understand the public's exposure to pharmaceutical residues.

At this time, Waters has decided to continue with this program as long as the need is high.

Pierson: Why did Waters Corp. feel it was important to make this offer? What should water authorities make of the results once they have them?

Khanna: Local water authorities were and continue to be under extreme pressure to respond to their constituencies following reports on the existence of pharmaceutical residues in U.S. drinking water supplies. We felt it important and responsible to be actively part of the solution, given our technological capabilities and expertise in chemical analysis. So we developed this program with the intention of providing a baseline understanding of exposure to help move toward forward-looking action plans. We are more than happy to work with these authorities on developing ongoing testing strategies to ensure the quality of their water.

Pierson: Why, in this complimentary testing, does Waters Corp. focus specifically on antidepressants and over-the-counter medications?

Khanna: While the Waters AquaAnalysis system is capable of detecting a myriad of trace levels of compounds, the current concern of many water authorities is common

pharmaceuticals. We felt that testing for these compounds was the most critical challenge for them and therefore, would have the biggest impact.

Pierson: Please describe the AquaAnalysis system and the technology and methods it uses to detect these compounds.

Khanna: The Waters AquaAnalysis System has been developed specifically to overcome the challenges faced by water testing laboratories, providing parallel analyte extraction, separation and detection in one turnkey solution. It is the only parallel online sample prep-plus-separation and detection system in the market today, providing a holistic solution from point of sample collection to report print-out. Automated sample handling, proprietary column chemistries and ultra-sensitive mass spectrometry have been combined into an online SPE LC/MS/MS system that dramatically streamlines the water analysis process. Requiring only a fraction of the typical sample volume, the system reduces typical analysis times by as much as 80%.

Pierson: Even if the results show very minimal amounts of these compounds, should utilities and the general public still be concerned about pharmaceuticals in water?

Khanna: Of course the general public should be concerned about pharmaceuticals in drinking water, but that concern should be tempered with the knowledge that their water utility has access to advanced technology to monitor trace levels of residues. Waters is keenly aware of the broad impact that contaminants can have on our natural resources. However, we believe that before any efforts are made to effectively safeguard our resources, authorities should conduct baseline assessments of current contamination levels to ensure long-term environmental management success. [www](http://www.waters.com)

For more information, contact Joe Romano, senior manager, chemical analysis, for Waters Corp. Romano can be reached at 508.482.2963 or by e-mail at joe.romano@waters.com. For more information on submitting water samples to Waters Corp., please go to www.waters.com/h2o.

Clare Pierson is associate editor for *Water & Wastes Digest*. Pierson can be reached at 847.391.1012 or by e-mail at cperson@sgcmail.com.

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HDR to Address Des Moines CSO Issues



The Des Moines Wastewater Reclamation Authority has selected HDR to address

significant combined sewer overflow issues.

HDR will evaluate and select the most appropriate treatment technologies and design and provide construction phase engineering as well as observation services for a combined sewer solids separation facility. The project has an estimated cost of \$40 million.

Registration Open for WEFTEC.08



Registration and housing is now open for WEFTEC.08, the Water Environment

Federation's 81st annual technical exhibition and conference. This year's event will take place Oct. 18 to 22, 2008, at McCormick Place in Chicago.

More than 1,000 exhibiting companies are expected and over 880 companies have already reserved floor space.

Early registration is encouraged. Visit www.weftec.org for the latest information.

Shares of Water Utilities Rise



Shares of water utilities reacted positively in April after Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke forecasted

America's investment banks will not be as hurt by the credit problems that Bear Stearns faced, *The Associated Press* reported.

Even in the face of economic obstacles, water utilities are generally seen as safe investments because their product and services are a necessity for all consumers.

Lexington, Ky., Agrees to Sewer Upgrades



The Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government in Kentucky has agreed to make more than \$290 million of

improvements to its sewer systems to eliminate unauthorized overflows of untreated raw sewage and reduce pollution levels in urban storm water.

Inadequacies in sewer system infrastructure and management programs have resulted in unlawful discharges of millions of gallons of untreated sewage into streams in the Lexington and Fayette County area and increased pollution levels in urban storm water.

EPA Settles with Pennsylvania Sewer Authority for Clean Water Violations



The U.S. EPA recently announced a proposed settlement with Upper Southampton

Sewer Authority in Southampton, Pa., for violations of the Clean Water Act.

As part of the settlement, the authority will conduct an awareness campaign to encourage proper collection and disposal

of unused pharmaceuticals in order to help protect drinking water sources.

The settlement resolves unpermitted sanitary sewer discharges to Mill Creek from 2002 through 2006. The estimated cost of the pharmaceutical project is \$10,800. The authority will also pay a \$16,200 penalty.

Cybersecurity Roadmap Introduced at AWWA Water Security Congress



The Roadmap to Secure Control Systems in the Water Sector, a project sponsored

by the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and the Department of Homeland Security, was introduced during the fifth AWWA Water Security Congress in Cincinnati.

The cybersecurity document will enable water utilities to be better positioned to protect themselves against cyber attacks or accidental cyber events.

Aqua-Aerobic Systems Honored by Rockford Chamber of Commerce



Aqua-Aerobic Systems received the 2008 Manufacturer of the Year award from Rockford, Ill., Chamber of Commerce.

Illinois Congressman Donald Manzullo presented a certificate of special congressional recognition and a trophy to Aqua-Aerobic for the company's significant contribution to Rockford's manufacturing community.

Pennsylvania Governor Announces \$72 Million in Water Investments



Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell recently announced the PENNVEST Board

of Directors' approval of \$72 million in low-interest loans and grants for 19 brownfields, drinking water, wastewater and storm water projects in 15 counties.

Rendell said the projects are important to the environment, the health of citizens and the economic vitality of communities.

Most of the money approved is for low-interest loans. Combined with \$8 million in grants, PENNVEST will fund 19 clean water projects.

NSF Addresses Issues of Pharmaceuticals in Water



NSF recently developed two documents that address

consumer concerns regarding the recent *Associated Press* report about pharmaceuticals in drinking water.

Both a single-page overview document and a press release providing additional information, including the formation of a NSF Task Group, are available at www.nsf.org.

In the days following the release distribution, it was distributed to a readership of more than 22.8 million. www.wwd

News compiled by Rebecca Wilhelm

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