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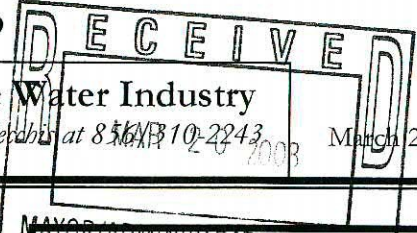


New Jersey  
American Water



# NEWSDROP

An Update Concerning Issues In The Water Industry  
For more information about this topic, contact Nick DeVecchis at 856/310-2243 March 2008



## PHARMACEUTICALS IN THE WATER

### What It Means To Your Community

Over the past few days there has been media outlets have been reporting on pharmaceuticals in the water. The debate has begun as to whether water utilities are doing enough to clean these contaminants out of drinking water.

For over 100 years American Water has been at the forefront of research related to advancing the science of water. For the last 10 years American Water's research group has been following the issue of pharmaceuticals in water and we have supported research through the American Water Works Association Research Foundation on this issue.

As the federal oversight agency, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) sets maximum contaminant levels for compounds in water based on protection of public health. Maximum contaminant levels for pharmaceuticals in water have not been developed. American Water has a long history of working with the USEPA and looks forward to working with them to develop those standards.

It is important to note that the levels mentioned in the Associated Press series were in parts per trillion meaning the levels were extremely small. To put it into context, your constituents would have to drink approximately 500 million liters or about 100 million gallons of water to get 500 mg. of a pharmaceutical product through ingested water, or a couple of aspirin tablets.

Available research has shown that many of the pharmaceutical compounds found in water can be and are removed by current filtration methods such as activated carbon (granular or powdered) and by ozone. Other compounds may require advanced treatment such as reverse osmosis followed by high intensity ultraviolet light and hydrogen peroxide addition.

As research on this subject continues, we want you and our customers to have confidence that American Water will continue to closely follow the development of regulations by the State Departments of Environmental Protection and the USEPA and will take whatever actions are necessary to comply with future regulations. As new information becomes available, we will keep you informed.

Communicating with our public officials is very important to New Jersey American Water.

As topics such as this one about pharmaceuticals in water come into prominence, we will make every effort to provide you with information that will be educational to your constituents and our customers in understanding the quality of the water we serve.

If you would like information on another topic or more information on this topic, please contact Nick DeVecchis at 856/310-2243 or via email at [nicholas.devecchis@amwater.com](mailto:nicholas.devecchis@amwater.com)

*New Jersey American Water is proud to be a part of the American Water Works Association's Partnership for Safe Water.*



New Jersey American Water is the largest investor-owned water utility in the state, providing high-quality and reliable water and/or wastewater services to more than 2.6 million people. In addition to its regulated operations, American Water provides operation and maintenance contract services to municipalities including North Brunswick, Edison, Liberty, Elizabeth and Avalon, serving an additional 207,000 people. The company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of American Water. Founded in 1886, American Water is the largest investor-owned U.S. water and wastewater utility company. With headquarters in Voorhees, N.J., the company employs nearly 6,900 dedicated professionals who provide drinking water, wastewater and other related services to approximately 16.2 million people in 32 states and Ontario, Canada. More information can be found by visiting [www.amwater.com](http://www.amwater.com).