



## Pharmaceutical Returns Service

(800) 215-5878

DEA Licensed, Endorsed & Referred  
EPA Licensed for HazMat/Regulated Waste

**These, and other stories regarding pending legislation, are available at the EPA website.**

**Discover, (Special Issue, January 2003)**

**"Drinking Water Drugged"**

<http://www.discover.com/issues/jan-03/features/environment/>

**— 100 Top Science Stories of 2002 —  
The topic of "drugs as water pollutants" is highlighted as one of the top science stories of 2002**

"Polluted water is nothing new in the United States. We have lived through flaming rivers and caustic creeks that could take the hide off a hound. For decades, however, efforts to safeguard drinking water were hampered because no one had an accurate sense of the full range of contaminants in the water supply, nor of the geographic extent of the pollution. This year two separate research teams unveiled sophisticated new tools to find out exactly what chemical dangers are lurking in freshwater streams."

**Philadelphia Inquirer**

<http://www.philly.com/mld/philly/living/health/10287666.htm>

**"Drinking water holds surprises"**

"Scientists are finding traces of drugs, herbicides and fragrances - even birth-control hormones and weed killers - in the nation's drinking water. Where once experts thought the water-filtration process would eliminate the chemicals, new studies, including surveys in Philadelphia and New Jersey, have discovered otherwise. One water industry investigation into 18 drinking-water plants nationwide found the compounds in 14 of them."

**Chemical & Engineering News**

<http://pubs.acs.org/subscribe/journals/cen/82/i40/html/8240sci3.html>

**"After Chemicals Go Down the Drain"**

**Bangor Daily News**

<http://www.bangornews.com/editorialnews/article.cfm?ID=437378>

**"New law cancels drug benefit:  
Valium, Xanax among Rx cuts"**

"On Tuesday, the last day of the conference, the agenda was expected to be devoted to state and federal efforts to regulate the disposal of unused medications in order to protect the environment as well as to keep prescription medications away from substance abusers."

[Note: this excerpt refers to a conference that discussed the State of Maine's "Act To Encourage the Proper Disposal of Expired Pharmaceuticals":

<http://www.mainesenate.org/expiredmeds/>

**BBC News**

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/3545684.stm>

**"Prozac 'found in drinking water'"**

## PPCPs as Environmental Pollutants (Pharmaceuticals & Personal Care Products)

As of 2004, the occurrence of PPCPs in drinking water is a major aspect that concerns the public. The occurrence of PPCPs in drinking water, particularly with respect to risk communication and risk perception, has major ramifications with regard to water reuse and recycling.

The scientists involved with PPCP research [PDF, 11 pp., 176 KB] span many disciplines, ranging from hydrology to toxicology. The published literature on PPCPs continues to grow and to cover a wider range of issues; the number of publications has grown from a dozen or fewer annually as of 1997 to more than 100 per year as of 2001. A wide array of web-accessible materials augments this published literature. A variety of grants have been awarded to various institutions by the EPA, USGS, AwwaRF, and others. Some of the research and thinking performed by EPA's ORD/NERL on various aspects of PPCPs has been published in a variety of journals and books. The media continues to cover advancements regarding PPCPs as environmental pollutants.

<http://www.epa.gov/>

**Ann Arbor News**

<http://www.mlive.com/news/aanews/index.ssf?base/news-9/1088244777181820.xml>

**"Study to trace new chemicals in city water:  
Ann Arbor gets grant to detect 'personal care' substances, such as antibiotics"**

"The city of Ann Arbor was awarded a \$26,000 grant to study how medicines, hormones and other substances are getting into the city's water cycle."

**EPA Press Release**

<http://www.epa.gov/NE/pr/2004/apr/040407.html>

**"EPA Plans to Increase Enforcement of Environmental Laws at New England Hospitals"**

"The problem of pharmaceutical waste has just begun to hit the radar screen at most hospitals," noted Varney. "We are glad to see these hospital leaders creating an innovative model for this waste stream that can be used by other hospitals and that will reduce the damage to our environment caused by these medical wastes. We expect hospital officials throughout New England to make environmental issues a priority, right up there with good medical care."

**MaineToday.com**

<http://news.mainetoday.com/apwire/D80PH2KG1-48.shtml>

**"Legislation encourages proper disposal of prescription drugs"**

"Maine could become the first state to launch a program that uses prepaid mailers to promote the proper disposal of expired or unused prescription drugs."

**Poughkeepsie Journal**

<http://www.mindfully.org/Water/2004/Chemicals-Water-Treatment18jan04.htm>

**"Eat, Drink and Be Wary: Chemicals often Linger in Water After Treatment"**

**Southwest Hydrology**

<http://www.swhydro.arizona.edu/index.html>

**"Pharmaceuticals and other Wastewater Products in Our Waters — A New Can of Worms?"**

**KLAS-TV**

<http://www.klastv.com/Global/story.asp?S=1521700&nav=168XJ4Ml>

**"Dumping Drugs Could Pose Health Threat"**

**Conscious Choice**

<http://www.consciouschoice.com/issues/cc1609/trustingthetap1609.html>

**"Trusting the Tap"**

**The Alchemist**

<http://www.chemweb.com/alchem/articles/1060850585617.html>

**"Sewage Pharmas"**

**National Post**

<http://www.nationalpost.com/home/story.html?id=BBAE19F0-A7D7-4498-BEB3-E902D2E69E48>

**"Province probing drug dump:  
Pharmacist sees no harm"**

"A Beaverton pharmacist is being investigated by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment for allegedly dumping "a witch's brew" of drugs down the toilet. The dumping could threaten the town's water supply and the water quality of Lake Simcoe, a source of drinking water for at least 30,000 people."

**Nature**

[http://www.nature.com/cgitaf/DynaPage.taf?file=/nature/journal/v424/n6944/full/424005a\\_fs.html](http://www.nature.com/cgitaf/DynaPage.taf?file=/nature/journal/v424/n6944/full/424005a_fs.html)

**"Studies assess risks of drugs in water cycle"**

**Environmental Health Perspectives**

<http://ehpnet1.niehs.nih.gov/docs/2003/111-5/ss.html>

**"Preventing Pill Pollution: Keeping Drugs and Toiletries out of the Environment"**

**Know Your Environment**

<http://www.acnatsci.org/research/kye/kye22003.html#h4>

**"The Clean Water Act: Thirty Years Later. Part 3 - Selected Topics For The Future"**

<http://www.acnatsci.org/research/kye/kye22003.html>

"Another set of emerging water quality issues, (about which considerably less is known) are the environmental effects caused by the release of minute quantities of pharmaceuticals into the environment. Although this problem is not specifically covered in the CWA (indeed, it was virtually unknown until a few years ago), it involves many of the same factors as conventional pollution, and may ultimately fall under the purview of the Act."

**Daily Environment Report,**

**Bureau of National Affairs, Washington D.C.**

<http://pubs.bna.com/ip/BNA/DEN.NSF/3404b46f853d5cc985256b57005ac042/119f8e586c4217aa85256ca3000fe6ac?>

**"New Data on Levels of Drugs, Chemicals In Water to Be Released at March Meeting"**

**Orlando Sentinel**

<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/custom/growth/orl-waterseriesabout020302.story>

**"Florida's Water Crisis"**

Available from our offices:

**Mini-Monograph: The Green Pharmacy — actions, opportunities, future issues.**

<http://www.epa.gov/esd/chemistry/ppcp/images/green2.pdf>