



Truckee Meadows Water Authority
Pharmaceuticals/Endocrine Disrupting Compounds (EDCs)
Press Conference Statement
May 16, 2008

Good morning. I am Paul Miller/Manager of Operations and Water Quality for Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA). Thank you all for being here today.

Pharmaceuticals and Endocrine Disrupting Compounds (EDCs) in drinking water supplies is an important issue for TMWA and our customers, as well as other water suppliers and consumers across the country. We appreciate your help in keeping our customers informed about their water quality and information related to this issue.

Several weeks ago the Associated Press reported on the occurrence of pharmaceuticals and EDCs in very low concentrations in drinking water supplies for large metropolitan areas across the United States. Although this was an emerging issue in the press at this time, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), with help from the U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS) has been researching the occurrence of these compounds since 1975.

EPA sets standards for drinking water through a process established by the Safe Drinking Water Act to identify and regulate drinking water contaminants to protect public health. There are currently no regulatory standards set by EPA for pharmaceuticals or EDCs, and therefore water suppliers are not required to sample and test for these compounds.

The Truckee River is the major water supply for customers served by Truckee Meadows Water Authority. The water quality and overall health of the river is an important issue for all users. Just prior to the Associated Press report being released, TMWA ordered sample kits for analyzing water at both the intake and outlet of our main water treatment plant, Chalk Bluff.

These sample kits were obtained from and sent to MWH Lab, a nationally recognized laboratory in Southern California, for analysis by two methods established by the USGS to identify pharmaceuticals, EDCs, and other constituents potentially indicating the presence of wastewater that might be found in drinking water supplies. The results of these analyses are attached for your review.

Review of these results show that no pharmaceuticals, EDCs or wastewater constituents were detected in the samples analyzed. 31 different compounds were analyzed for and each was found to be non-detect (ND). The minimum reporting limit (RL), associated Units and Description of each Analyte are shown for reference. For example, caffeine, a stimulant, was found to be ND at a MRL of 1 ng/L.

It is important to know that in the metropolitan areas that *did* show the presence of some of these compounds, they were in the parts per trillion (ng/L) ranges. For reference, a part per billion is equivalent to one drop in an Olympic sized swimming pool, and a part per trillion is equivalent to 1 drop in 1000 Olympic size swimming pools.

We have attached recent testimony by Dr. Shane Snyder of the Southern Nevada Water Authority that he presented to the United States Senate Subcommittee regarding pharmaceuticals in the nation's water. Dr. Snyder is considered to be a leading researcher in this field and represented the American Water Works Association in this testimony to the Senate. I encourage you to read this testimony completely and pass on information to our customers as you deem appropriate. One statement I would like to quote to bring this national issue into perspective is, "Based upon our four-year study of the health relevance of trace pharmaceuticals, using the highest concentrations found and the most conservative safety factors to protect susceptible populations such as infants and pregnant women, our report will demonstrate that one could safely consume more than 50,000 eight-ounce glasses of this water per day without any health effects."

Truckee Meadows Water Authority, as with all other water utilities across the United States, is awaiting regulatory guidance regarding this matter. The issue is currently being addressed by Congress and the EPA. TMWA is committed to keeping abreast of these discussions and potential regulatory requirements, and will continue to plan for and implement treatment solutions that meet all regulatory requirements.

This concludes my statement. I would happy to answer any questions you may have regarding this.

Thank you