



FACT SHEET

Pharmaceuticals & Personal Care Products in Drinking Water

- **Beaver Water District is committed to protecting public health.** Water professionals are researching the occurrence of personal care products and pharmaceutical compounds in drinking water supplies and are paying close attention of health effects research in this area.¹
- **Water professionals have the technology today to detect more substances – at lower levels – than ever before.** As analytical methods improve, pharmaceutical compounds and personal care products are being found at very low levels in many of our national's lakes, rivers and streams.
- **The fact that a substance is detectable does not mean the substance is harmful to humans.** To date, research throughout the world has not demonstrated an impact on human health from pharmaceuticals and endocrine disrupting compounds in water.
- **While these compounds may be detected at very low levels in source waters, people regularly consume or expose themselves to products containing these compounds in much higher concentrations through medicines, food and beverage and other sources.** The level in which they are found in source waters is very small in comparison.
- **The Contaminant Candidate List (CCL), which is used by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to identify contaminants in public drinking water that warrant detailed study, does not currently include any personal care products or pharmaceuticals.**
- **As a society, we should encourage policies that protect source water from contaminants.** These contaminants are frequently the result of human activities and decisions. The best and most cost-effective way to ensure safe water at the tap is to keep our source waters clean. Beaver Lake is a precious water source and we need to protect it from harmful substances.
- **The Arkansas Office of the Drug Director recommends using medicine take-back programs as the best way to dispose of your unwanted medicines.** To find a convenient drop-off location, visit www.artakeback.org.

¹ *Pharmaceuticals and Other Organic Chemicals in Selected North-Central and Northwestern Arkansas Streams* © 2006 American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America. Contact: Dr. Brian Haggard, University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, haggard@uark.edu.

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About Beaver Water District

Beaver Water District supplies drinking water to 300,000 people and industries in Fayetteville, Springdale, Rogers, Bentonville and surrounding areas. These cities then resell the water to surrounding towns and communities. The District's mission is to serve our customers by providing high quality drinking water that meets or exceeds all federal and state regulatory requirements and is economically priced consistent with our quality standards. For more information, visit www.bwdh2o.org.