



## FACT SHEET

### Pharmaceuticals & Personal Care Products in Drinking Water (PPCPs)

- **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 to health effects research in this area.<sup>1</sup>
- **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.
- **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) is used by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to identify contaminants in public drinking water that warrant detailed study. Personal care products and pharmaceuticals first appeared on the CCL3.**
- **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](http://www.artakeback.org).

<sup>1</sup> [\*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](mailto:haggard@uark.edu).

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#### About Beaver Water District

Beaver Water District supplies drinking water to 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 sustainably provide our customers with safe, economical drinking water. For more information, visit [www.bwdh2o.org](http://www.bwdh2o.org).