



**American Water Works
Association**

Public Affairs Advisory

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The Authoritative Resource on Safe Water®

Public Affairs Advisory

**TO: AWWA Leadership
All Utilities**

FROM: Jack W. Hoffbuhr

DATE: April 4, 2007

Who:	AWWA Utilities
What:	New York Times story on pharmaceuticals in water
When:	April 3, 2007 issue

Water systems should be aware of a story in the April 3 New York Times highlighting the occurrence of pharmaceuticals and personal care products in U.S. waterways.

The article can be found online at
www.nytimes.com/2007/04/03/science/earth/03water.html?ref=science
[registration required]

The article, headlined “Drugs in the water: Does it matter?” states that “On the one hand, there is no evidence the traces of the chemicals found so far are harmful to human beings. On the other hand, it would seem cavalier to ignore them.” The story mentions possible effects of these compounds on fish and other wildlife in rivers and streams and the uncertainty of risks to humans. The story may appear in other publications through wire service distribution and could inspire media inquiries about unregulated contaminants in local water sources.

AWWA provides consumer information on the subject of emerging contaminants on its
www.drinktap.org consumer site at:

www.drinktap.org/consumerdnn/Home/WaterInformation/WaterQuality/PharmaceuticalsPPCPs/tabid/73/Default.aspx

Please contact Greg Kail, senior public affairs manager, at 303-734-3410 or gkail@awwa.org if you have questions.

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