

Suggested Utility Talking Points on Atrazine

- Atrazine is an herbicide widely used on a number of crops, primarily on corn and soybeans. It typically enters surface waters, like rivers, after a late spring or early summer rainstorm or when agricultural irrigation water containing it drains into them.
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) established a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for atrazine in 1991 at 3 ppb, with compliance based on an annual average of quarterly samples.
- Atrazine has recently been associated with causing imbalances in hormone levels in laboratory animals, possibly disrupting reproductive and developmental processes on a short-term basis. Following a 2002 risk assessment, EPA reported that atrazine is not likely to be carcinogenic to humans.
- Atrazine has also been going through the re-registration process at EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs. That process has generated some new health effects data which will eventually be incorporated into the atrazine drinking water standard. EPA will review the existing regulation for atrazine later this year as part of its normal Six-Year review process.
- Our drinking water meets all current federal and state regulations for atrazine. We are paying close attention to the research in this area and will take immediate action to address any future concerns.
- Information on atrazine and other potential contaminants is included in our utility's annual water quality reports, which are delivered to every customer each year and also available at [include web address here].
- The best and most cost-effective way to keep our drinking water clean is to protect our precious source waters from contamination. We should all work for policies that protect our water and keep it clean, safe and plentiful.