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The Authoritative Resource on Safe Water®

Public Affairs Advisory

**TO: AWWA Leadership
All Utilities**

FROM: AWWA Public Affairs

DATE: April 20, 2009

Who:	Associated Press
What:	Investigative Article Concerning Pharmaceuticals in waterways and drinking water
When:	Distributed Sunday

On Sunday, the Associated Press (AP) distributed an investigative article http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090419/ap_on_re_us/pharmawater_factories on the amount and types of pharmaceuticals that have been released into waterways by U.S. manufacturers. AP reviewed data conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and concluded that 271 million pounds of pharmaceuticals were released over a 20-year period. Portions of the article, part of AP's ongoing series on the issue of pharmaceuticals in water, will likely run in print and/or online versions of newspapers throughout North America.

The story publication coincides with the April 21 premier of the PBS Frontline documentary titled "Poisoned Waters." www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/poisonedwaters/
The documentary examines how runoff from industry and agriculture is making its way into waterways, and in some cases, drinking water.

In light of the AP report and the PBS program, it is possible that drinking water utilities will receive increasing inquiries from local media and customers on this issue. Attached are talking points on the subject of pharmaceuticals in drinking water.

In addition, AWWA maintains information on the issue of pharmaceuticals in water supplies and endocrine disruptors on at www.awwa.org and the www.drinktap.org consumer site. Technical information on endocrine disruptors and a brief video clip on pharmaceuticals are available here:

www.awwa.org/Resources/topicspecific.cfm?ItemNumber=3647&navItemNumber=32969

A consumer-oriented Q&A and a video of former CDC Director Dr. Julie Gerberding commenting on the topic is available on the [DrinkTap site](#).

AWWA's Public Affairs Office is also available to assist with questions or to serve as third-party sources. Please contact us at 303-347-6140 or 303-734-3410.

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