



UP THE CREEK

April 1, 2012

You can't help but notice, since it is hooked to this page by a staple, that there is an annual water quality report – the “CCR” – with this month's water bill (unless you are getting this by email – then there is no staple). The purpose of the CCR is to inform you of the presence and concentration of those things in your water which are *not* water, and therefore defined as “contaminants.”

By that definition, we all drink contaminated water. Making and keeping water pure is difficult. Pure H₂O dissolves just about everything it touches, thereby contaminating itself eventually, no matter how pure it started out. It's questionable whether drinking uncontaminated (pure) water would be beneficial to normally healthy people. It certainly is a bland substance. Bottlers of designer water, in order to make their water palatable, often need to put back some of the mineral contaminants that were removed by reverse osmosis filtration.

Often we find that the CCR raises more questions than it answers. Some customers would like to see the whole list of tests that are performed. We can provide that information but it would over-stuff your envelope; please call us if interested. We are sometimes questioned about the absence of information on a specific substance of interest. For example, pesticides and hydrocarbons are tested, but if they were not found, they are not listed in the CCR. Another item that seems to be on a lot of minds is the poor little fluoride molecule. No, we do not fluoridate.

There is, however, a contaminant that is not covered in the CCR. We have become aware that this compound exists in significant concentration throughout our water system. After some inquiries, we have learned that it is present in almost all water systems, and is found in large quantities in lakes and rivers.

We are referring to DHMO – dihydrogen monoxide. This is a compound made up of two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen. It is known among water providers to be an “invisible killer,” because it is colorless, odorless, tasteless, and causes the deaths of uncounted thousands every year. Most victims of DHMO succumbed to inhalation, which can be very quickly fatal. Dihydrogen monoxide is also known as hydric acid, and is the major component of acid rain. The informative website dhmo.org lists the following adverse effects:

- contributes to the *Greenhouse Effect*.
- may cause severe burns.
- causes severe tissue damage in its solid form
- contributes to the erosion of our natural landscape.
- accelerates corrosion and rusting of many metals.
- may cause electrical failures
- decreases the effectiveness of automobile brakes.

DHMO remains on fruits and vegetables after washing. If ingested, it results in sweating and urination. Excessive intake causes bloating and electrolyte imbalance. People often become addicted, and withdrawal is invariably fatal. Although the US EPA and Colorado Health Department do not require testing for DHMO, there is a simple test you can perform at home:

(1) Lay a dry paper towel on a dry surface. (2) Draw a small amount of water from your tap and pour it on the towel. If the towel becomes limp and soggy, you have DHMO. Good luck.