



**UP THE CREEK**  
November 1, 2008

**IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE - PLEASE READ**

On August 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, you were advised via this newsletter that our water system exceeded the Colorado State Drinking Water standard for Haloacetic Acid (HAA). Although our corrective action has lowered the HAA measured in the second and third quarters of 2008, the calculated running annual average still exceeds the standard. By regulations, this advisory notice must be repeated quarterly until the annual average is below the maximum contaminant level (MCL).

**1. What is the status?** The MCL established for HAA, as a running annual average, is 60 parts per billion. The sample taken in February 2008 measured 91.8 parts per billion. Subsequent sample results were June, 81 parts per billion, and September, 44.7 parts per billion. Currently the running annual average is 70 parts per billion.

**2. What is HAA and what is the the potential health effect?** Haloacetic acids are formed when chlorine reacts with organic compounds commonly present in soil and decaying plants. Some people who drink water containing HAA in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years *may* have an increased risk of getting cancer.

**3. What should you be doing to protect yourself?** You may continue to use the water as usual. If you are concerned about potential long-term health risk, you may choose to drink bottled water, if you can ascertain that it does not exceed the MCL for HAA. Be aware that a recent study found many of the same contaminants in bottled water that occur in tap water. This is hardly surprising, given that the majority of bottled water in the United States is in fact tap water.

In our August 1<sup>st</sup> advisory letter on HAA, point-of-use filtration was mentioned as a possible remedy. It has since been learned that is unlikely to be effective in removing HAA. Boiling the water also will not remove HAA.

**4. What is USCDWUA doing about the problem?** Three strategies are, or will be used : (1) lower the chlorine dose. This has already shown to be effective in lowering HAA. (2) Decrease the “residence time” of the water in the distribution system. Some areas of the system do not have very much use, which increases the age of the water reaching the consumer. We have learned through research and observation that HAA formation increases with increased residence time in the pipelines. The cure is increased manual and automatic flushing of the more stagnant areas of the system. (3) Adjust the pH of the water at the treatment plant. This will begin as soon as State engineering approval can be obtained for the required modification. The formation of HAA is decreased at higher pH. Presently the pH of our water is slightly above 7.0 (neutral). It is planned to adjust this number higher (less acidic) to inhibit formation of HAA.

**5. How can I obtain further information?** Please call, write, or email the Association Manager:

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P.O. Box 70  
17257 Meadow Drive  
Cedaredge, CO 81413  
970-856-7199  
[danhawkins@uscdwua.com](mailto:danhawkins@uscdwua.com)

And check our website periodically for updates: [www.uscdwua.com](http://www.uscdwua.com).

**6.** Please share this notice with people you know who may not have received a copy, such as a tenant who does not receive a water bill. Thank you.