UP THE CREEK
April 1, 2009

Before continuing, be warned that the following may contain ironic, possibly humorous content. People exposed to such writing over a long period of time may have an increased chance of smiling.

So far this year, our newsletters have been a little glum - in January, we lectured you not to let your pipes freeze; in February, we delivered the obligatory scary public notice about haloacetic acid in the water; in March, we warned of gunk stirred up by our flushing of the pipeline system. You deserve a break. After all, this is the April 1 edition.

But before any April foolishness, let us dispose of one important item of business. We are pleased to report that haloacetic acid in your water has been below the Colorado maximum contaminant level for the last four consecutive quarters (one year), thus ending our violation of that particular rule. Hallelujah!

However, we regret to announce the discovery of yet another compound which has entered and spread throughout our entire system, and which may ultimately prove dangerous to all of us. This substance, technically known as *dihydrogen monoxide*, is also commonly called *hydric acid*. Roger Parks recently advised us of the serious nature of this contaminant. The following facts may be found at a website dedicated to the banning of dihydrogen monoxide, www.dhmo.org:

- Athletes use dihydrogen monoxide (DHMO) to enhance performance.
- Thousands die each year after inhaling DHMO.
- DHMO is intoxicating if mixed with small quantities of ethanol.
- DHMO has been discovered in significant quantities in rivers, lakes, oceans and streams.
- Residual DHMO remains on fruits and vegetables after washing.
- Symptoms of ingestion or contact with liquid DHMO include shivering and sweating.
- Gaseous DHMO causes severe burns.
- Solid DHMO has been linked with frostbite and car accidents.

DHMO is widely used in the chemical industry, and is a major constituent of many dangerous pesticides. Although it is not yet proven to be carcinogenic, DHMO has been found in all kinds of cancerous and pre-cancerous human tissue. It has been detected in the bloodstream, and experts agree that every person on the planet may have alarming levels of DHMO in his or her body.

DHMO has been associated with killer tornadoes. It also contributes to major hurricanes, and has been implicated in catastrophic hailstorms. Evidence indicates that it is a major greenhouse gas, far more potent than carbon dioxide as a cause of warming. Conversely, when excessive quantities are released into the atmosphere, it reduces the strength of sunlight, leading to sudden cooling. DHMO is a major component of acid rain. It is extremely corrosive, capable of dissolving anything.

You may rest assured that your staff at Up The Creek takes the threat of DHMO seriously. We have not yet determined the best line of action to protect you from its effects. Although boiling will eventually remove all traces of DHMO, it takes quite a while, and emits gaseous DHMO into the atmosphere causing further harm, as pointed out above. Bottled water is not a very good option, because the FDA has recently discovered quantities of DHMO in both Coke and Pepsi bottled water. (It is not clear whether the designer water brands with foreign-sounding names actually contain DHMO). Anyhow, we will not rest until we have a completely DHMO-free system.

If you decide to write to your congressman urging a ban on DHMO, remember to specifically include its chemical formula to prevent misunderstanding. The formula is H_2O.

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