



UP THE CREEK
June 1, 2014

As you and the fellow on the right have no doubt noticed, this month's newsletter incorporates the annual "CCR," the official acronym for **Consumer Confidence Report**. We have learned, however, that it is wrongly but understandably interpreted by its mandated recipients (you) as the **Consumer Confusion Report**.

It ain't our fault.

Boy, it feels good to be able to say that once in a great while, because the other 99.9% of dumb things we do around here are definitely and obviously our fault.



Like everybody, we love a good scapegoat and there is none better than the Fed'ral Gummint, and so we happily point the finger at them, specifically at the EPA, for making us do it.

The thing to understand about the CCR is that it is by no means a complete picture of the condition of your drinking water. It is a report of things that were seen in certain snapshots at certain times when water samples were collected and analyzed. It leaves out a hundred things – “contaminants” – that were **not** found in these snapshots. And that is a good thing, because imagine how big this report would be if all the non-detects were included. I know some of you are probably curious about what these non-detected substances are. And everybody seems to have a favorite contaminant to be really concerned about, and hope we test for it constantly, because one molecule of it is certain death. One customer advised me one day that our whole system was known to be contaminated with DHMO or dihydrogen monoxide, and that we had better get cracking to clean it up. I actually bit on that one, and ran in circles until I realized that DHMO is an almost plausible name for H₂O.

One thing a lot of people ask about is fluoride. We do not add it, and there is a negligible amount naturally present in the water. Our last analysis found less than 0.1 parts per million. The next most popular “contaminant” of interest is chlorine. Yes, we do use it. Some people don't like it, some people do. We really have no practical choice as a disinfectant.

Now, without looking, I want you to grab a pencil and write “fluoride.” No peeking, now. Did you write “flouride?” Thought so.