

HOME PAGE TODAY'S PAPER VIDEO MOST POPULAR TIMES TOPICS Log In | Register Now

The New York Times
Friday, June 24, 2011

U.S.

Search All NYTimes.com

WORLD U.S. N.Y. / REGION BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY SCIENCE HEALTH SPORTS OPINION ARTS STYLE TRAVEL JOBS REAL ESTATE AUTOS
POLITICS EDUCATION

Advertise on NYTimes.com



Regulation March 22, 2010

U.S. Bolsters Chemical Restrictions for Water

By CHARLES DUHIGG

The agency's administrator wants stricter regulations on four chemical compounds that can cause cancer.

Sewer

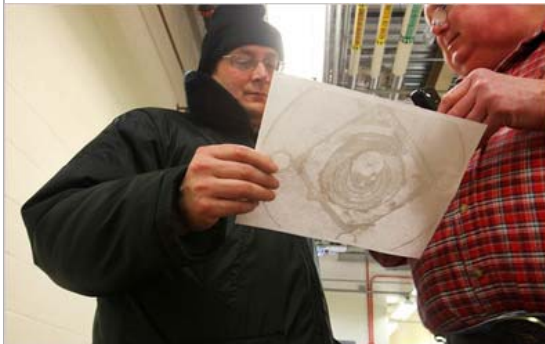
Systems March 15, 2010

Saving U.S. Water and Sewer Systems Would Be Costly

By CHARLES DUHIGG

Ruptures in aging water systems cause pollutants to seep into water supplies, but in many cities residents have protested rate increases to fix pipes.

[View Comments](#)



Nicole Bengiveno/The New York Times

As head of Washington's water department, George Hawkins, left, is on the scene every time a major sewer or water line breaks.

Regulation March 1, 2010

Rulings Restrict Clean Water Act, Hampering E.P.A.

By CHARLES DUHIGG and JANET ROBERTS

Thousands of the nation's largest water polluters are outside the E.P.A.'s reach because the Supreme Court has left uncertain which waterways are protected.

[Polluters Beyond the Law](#)

[View Comments](#)



David Walter Banks for The New York Times

Ducks at the mouth of Avondale Creek in Alabama, into which a pipe maker dumped oil, lead and zinc. A court ruled the waterway was exempt from the Clean Water Act.

Drinking

Water December 16, 2009

Tap Water Can Be Unhealthy but Still Legal

By CHARLES DUHIGG

The 35-year-old federal law regulating tap water is so out of date that the water Americans drink can pose what scientists say are serious health risks — and still be legal.



Monica Almeida/The New York Times

Samples of tap water from Maywood, Calif., where laboratory tests have shown toxic levels of chemicals in the city's tap water. When residents asked for cleaner water, they were told the water satisfied the Safe Drinking Water Act.

What's in Your Water?

Browse contaminant levels from water systems throughout the nation:

View State...

[Slide Show: In Los Angeles, a Struggle Over Water Quality](#)

Tainted Tap Water

In Maywood, Calif., located near downtown Los Angeles, tap water often comes out brown and contains harmful levels of dangerous chemicals.



Tainted Tap Water

Drinking

Water December 7, 2009

Millions in U.S. Drink Contaminated Water, Records Show

By CHARLES DUHIGG

More than 20 percent of water treatment systems have violated key provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act.



Andrew Sullivan for The New York Times

The water system in Ramsey, N.J., has illegal concentrations of arsenic and the solvent tetrachloroethylene, both linked to cancer.

Sewage November 23, 2009

Sewers at Capacity, Waste Poisons Waterways

By CHARLES DUHIGG

Many sewer systems are frequently overwhelmed, with sewage spilling into waterways and polluting them with excrement and industrial chemicals.



Damon Winter/The New York Times

A worker maintaining a tank at a Brooklyn wastewater treatment plant. Half the rainstorms in New York overwhelm the system.

[When It Rains, It Pollutes](#)

Polluted Harbors

Aging sewer systems and urban storm runoff are two of the worst sources of water pollution in the United States. In Newport, R.I., residents live with regular beach closings and sewage overflows.



Polluted Harbors

Power

Plants October 12, 2009

Cleansing the Air at the Expense of Waterways

By CHARLES DUHIGG

Even as a growing number of coal-burning power plants around the nation have moved to reduce their air emissions, many of them are creating another problem: water pollution. Power plants are the nation's biggest source of toxic waste, and while much of that waste once went into the sky, because of toughened air pollution laws, it now often goes into lakes and rivers, or landfills that have leaked into nearby groundwater, say regulators and environmentalists.



Damon Winter/The New York Times

Father Rodney Torbic, the priest at the St. George Serbian Orthodox Church, lives across the road from Hatfield's Ferry and sees people suffering.

[Water Polluters Near You: Coal-Fired Power Plants](#)

From Air to Water Waste

Waste from the Hatfield's Ferry power plant in Masontown, Pa., that once went into the sky is now going into the Monongahela River, which provides drinking water to 350,000 people.



From Air to Water

Agricultural RunoffSeptember 17, 2009 Health Ills Abound as Farm Runoff Fouls Wells

By CHARLES DUHIGG

Agricultural runoff is the single biggest source of water pollution in the nation's rivers and streams, according to the federal Environmental Protection Agency. Yet farm waste is largely unregulated by many of the federal laws designed to prevent pollution and protect drinking water sources.



Damon Winter/The New York Times

Dangerous pollutants in drinking water can be traced to the runoff of waste from farm animals.

[Slide Show: Farm Waste in Wisconsin](#)

The Danger of Livestock Waste

In Idaho, excess dairy waste that is spread over fields could be leaching into the groundwater and compromising rural drinking wells.



The Danger of Livestock Waste

Industrial WasteSeptember 12, 2009 Pollution Grows With Little Fear of Punishment

By CHARLES DUHIGG

Almost four decades after Congress passed the Clean Water Act, the rate of water pollution violations is rising steadily. In the past five years, companies and workplaces have violated pollution laws more than 500,000 times. But the vast majority of polluters have escaped punishment.

[How Safe Is Your Water?](#)



Damon Winter/The New York Times

Ryan Massey, 7, shows his caps. Dentists near Charleston, W. Va. say pollutants in drinking water have damaged residents' teeth.

Clean Water Act Violations:

Find Water Polluters Near You

Select a State

Video: Coal in the Water

Jennifer Hall-Massey explains how water pollution, which she believes is caused by nearby coal companies, has impacted her family and community.



Coal in the Water

HerbicidesAugust 22, 2009 Debating How Much Weed Killer Is Safe in Your Water Glass

By CHARLES DUHIGG

Atrazine has become among the most common contaminants in American reservoirs and other sources of drinking water. New research suggests that the weed killer may be dangerous at lower concentrations than previously thought, particularly for fetuses.



Mark Lyons for The New York Times

In Piqua, Ohio, the city manager, Frederick Enderle, left, said he was unaware of spikes in atrazine. Residents like Jeff Lange are angry about the risks.

[Atrazine Levels Across the Nation](#)
[Summertime Spikes](#)

Resources

These Web sites may be helpful for anyone seeking to learn more about water quality, pollution or how to evaluate or treat their drinking water.

[DRINKING WATER](#)[The Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water](#)[Environmental Protection Agency](#)

[Local Drinking Water System Lookup](#)[Environmental Protection Agency](#)

[Drinking Water and Ground Water Statistics for 2008 \(PDF\)](#)[Environmental Protection Agency](#)

[Drinking Water and Ground Water Statistics - 1998-2008](#)[Environmental Protection Agency](#)

[An Assessment of Water Quality From Domestic Wells](#)[U.S. Geological Survey](#)

[A National Assessment of Tap Water Quality](#)[The Environmental Working Group](#)

[ARSENIC IN DRINKING WATER](#)[Draft assessment on arsenic, raising the toxicity determinations](#) [Environmental Protection Agency](#)

[Arsenic in Drinking Water, 2001 Update](#) [National Academy of Science](#)

[A history of rule-making regarding arsenic in drinking water](#) [Environmental Protection Agency](#)

[Arsenic in Drinking Water and Adult Mortality](#) [Epidemiology](#)

[STUDIES REGARDING ILLNESSES AND DRINKING WATER](#)[How to Access Local Drinking Water Information](#) [Environmental Protection Agency](#)

[National Public Water Systems Compliance Report, 1996-Present](#) [Environmental Protection Agency](#)

[Risk of Waterborne Illness via Drinking Water in the United States](#) [National Center for Biotechnology Information](#)

[Quality of Water from Domestic Wells in Principal Aquifers of the United States, 1991–2004](#) [United States Geological Survey](#)

[Drinking-Water Herbicide Exposure in Indiana and Prevalence of Small-for-Gestational-Age and Preterm Delivery](#) [Environmental Health Perspectives](#)

[Health Risk of Bathing in Southern California Coastal Waters](#) [Archives of Environmental and Occupational Health](#)

[The Association of Drinking Water Source and Chlorination Byproducts with Cancer Incidence Among Postmenopausal Women in Iowa](#) [American Journal of Public Health](#)

[Cancer and Drinking Water in Louisiana: Colon and Rectum](#) [International Journal of Epidemiology](#)

[WATER FILTERS](#)[Consumer Guide to Water Filters](#)[Natural Resources Defense Council](#)

[CHEMICALS AND RISK ASSESSMENT](#)[Safe Drinking Water Act Standards](#) [Environmental Protection Agency](#)

[Drinking Water Health Advisories](#) [Environmental Protection Agency](#)

[Integrated Risk Information System](#) [Environmental Protection Agency](#)

[Health-Based Screening Levels](#) [United States Geological Survey](#)

[GOVERNMENT ASSESSMENTS ON TETRACHLOROETHYLENE \(PERC\), TRICHLOROETHYLENE AND PERCHLORATE](#)[IRIS Assessment of Perchlorate](#) [Environmental Protection Agency](#)

[Internal Assessment on Tetrachloroethylene in Rats](#) [Environmental Protection Agency](#)

[Internal Assessment on Tetrachloroethylene: Toxicological Review](#) [Environmental Protection Agency](#)

[National Academy of Sciences on Tetrachloroethylene](#) [National Academy of Sciences](#)

[Trichloroethylene: Assessing the Human Health Risks](#) [National Academy of Sciences](#)

[Home](#) | [World](#) | [U.S.](#) | [N.Y. / Region](#) | [Business](#) | [Technology](#) | [Science](#) | [Health](#) | [Sports](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Arts](#) | [Style](#) | [Travel](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Autos](#) | [Back to Top](#)

Copyright 2009 The New York Times Company | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Search](#) | [Corrections](#) | [RSS](#) | [First Look](#) | [Help](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Work for Us](#) | [Advertise with Us](#) | [Site Map](#)

undefined