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PENINSULA PEOPLE & OPINIONS

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Chloramine causes collateral health damage

CHLORAMINE IS A TOXIN added to drinking water we receive from the Hetch Hetchy system. Chloramine is ammonia added to chlorine to make chloramine. Listed in the MSDS industrial chemistry book, chloramine is to be used in an emergency and does not have an antidote. Chloramine cannot be boiled out of the water and can kill fish in hobby tanks and as shown from research, can cause canine hysteria.

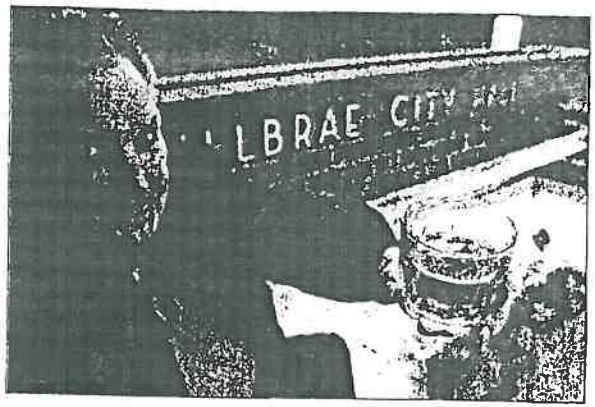
GUEST OPINION
BY WINN PARKER

Hemodialysis patients have a special consideration not to have chlormaine in their blood. They could die in minutes.

Chronic kidney disease causes the organs to slowly lose their ability to filter waste out of the bloodstream. Many of the 20 million people estimated to have kidney disease do not know it. The Public Utility Commission is asking humans to be a human processing plant for the chloramine in the body.

Charcoal filters cannot take out the nitrogen in the ammonia. The PUC's requested human processing plant – which is us – can bioaccumulate the nitrogern-toxins from an impaired kidney, liver or impaired immune system. The bioaccumulation of amine toxins and secondary cancer products are going to accumulate even in various dosages of ammonia to chlorine in the drinking water.

Chlolramine in drinking water can enter the digestion and blood stream in another form called a nitrogen balance. Nitrogen balance refers to the difference between nitrogen intake and total nitrogen loss in urine, sweat and bowel elimination. Ammonia, derived mainly from breakdown of amino acids, is toxic to all animals. Human tissues, therefore, initially detoxify ammonia by converting it to glutamine for transport to the liver. Collateral health damage from ammonia upsets the pH balance of the body. If the liver is functioning properly, it releases ammonia converted into the non-toxic nitrogen-rich compound urea in the urine. If the amine of the liver is compromised, ammonia accumulates in the blood and generates serious consequences.



DOUG OAKLEY
Winn Parker of Millbrae is campaigning against the use of chloramine in Bay Area water supplies.

N-nitrosodiumethyamine (NDMA), a probably carcinogen, is a likely by-product of cloramination of drinking water. Collateral health damage from this secondary cancer by-product, NDMA, will probably decrease immunity in the human body. Journal AWWA, Feb. 2001, Vol. 93, No. 2, pp. 92-99.

There are other examples of possible collateral health damage from chloramine explained in other scientific journals, one affecting thyroid metabolism in healthy men and another affecting white blood cells that are needed for a healthy immune system.

Research shows there is also collateral health damage when chloramine interacts with certain medicines. For example, chloramine can change the interaction in the body from taking antidepressants with the drinking water. Statins, which reduce cholesterol levels, are influenced by chloramine drinking water entering the cells of the body. Propecia, for male pattern baldness, is interactive with chloramine.

Chloramine has been known to cause corrosive pipe deterioration releasing lead and other toxins from pipes eaten away by chloramine. This could cost consumers billions of dollars a years and adversely impact public health.

For a short-term solution, consumers should have filters to remove lead from the water. The long-term solution is to eventually replace all significant lead-bearing materials that are used in the water system. This will take generations to implement. Rather, we must NOW remove chloramine, which is a toxin and produces secondary cancer by-products, and has uncertainties and risks. Since chloramine is a toxin added to the water, water qualifies to be labeled as a toxin under Proposition 65.

If it costs close to $400 million to have alternative technologies for our water to be chemically free, it is a small price to pay compared to the $3.5 billion 13-year build-out of the Hetch Hetchy water system.

After the installation of alternative technologies, we will not have to worry about setting caps on tort damage lawsuits resulting from wrongful death suits against the state, county, and city councils.

Winn Parker is a global medical and bioscience clinical intellectual property venture capital licensing agreement analyst. He is a licensed clinical medical scientist and an expert witness in medical science and biomedical cases, in addition to being a former consultant to the World Health Organization. Parker lives in Millbrae

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Public Comments

Contaminated Water a Problem

Continued from Page B-1

toxic heavy metal.

The Washington Post reported in October 2004 that the D.C. Water and Sewer Authority knew in 2001 that its water contained unsafe lead levels, but "withheld six high test results and said the water was fine."

While the *Post* article did not mention chloramines, it did say that other cities have similar problems dealing with unacceptably high levels of lead in their water:

"Cities across the country are manipulating the results of tests used to detect lead in water, violating federal law and putting millions of Americans at risk," the *Post* reported. "Some cities, including Philadelphia and Boston, have thrown out tests that show high readings or have avoided testing homes most likely to have lead."

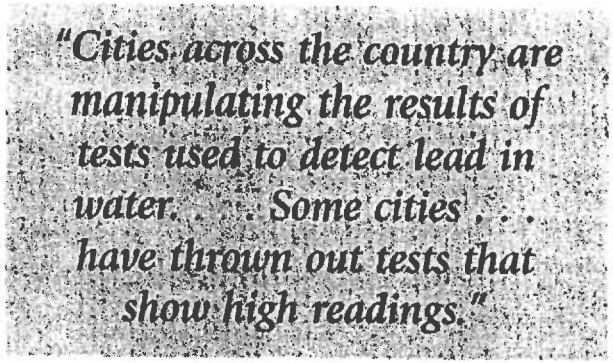
"In New York City," the *Post* wrote, "the nation's largest water provider has for the past three years assured its 9.3 million customers that its water was safe because the lead content fell below federal limits. But the city has withheld from regulators hundreds of test results that would have raised lead levels above the safety standard in two of those years."

The American Water Works Association (AWWA), an international nonprofit scientific society dedicated to the improvement of drinking water quality, reported that samples of Washington water collected after flushing were as high as 48,000 parts per billion (ppb). Some of the highest lead concentrations came from taps after one minute of flushing.

The EPA's "action level" for lead in drinking water is 15 ppb, while the UN's World Health Organization recommends that lead not exceed 10 ppb.

According to the EPA, "If the lead concentration of the drinking water at the tap is above the action level, the water supplier may be required to install corrosion-control equipment, monitor the water source, and replace lead service lines, as well as undertake a public education program."

After switching to chloraminated water, children in Washington ingested more than 60 times the EPA's maximum level of lead with one glass of water.



"[Lead] contaminated water is a greater risk to youth," the EPA notes. A 2-year-old's estimated daily intake of lead from all sources should not exceed 190 ppb per day, according to EPA guidelines.

In March 2004, after a number of 2-year-olds in Washington were found to have high levels of lead in their blood, D.C. City Administrator Robert Bobb said that 23,000 homes with lead service lines would receive filters within 30 days.

Lead in the drinking water was a problem that plagued ancient Rome.

Vitruvius, Roman architect and engineer, warned of lead in his 1st Century B.C. opus *De Architectura*: "Water from clay pipes is much more wholesome than that which is conducted through lead pipes, because lead is found to be harmful . . . hurtful to the human system.

"Hence, water ought by no means to be conducted in lead pipes, if we want to have it wholesome," Vitruvius wrote.

TOXIC BYPRODUCTS

The chlorination of water also creates a host of known and unknown organic byproducts, which experts say are "the chemicals of greatest concern" due to their toxicity and carcinogenic potential.

To reduce the level of harmful DBPs and the odor in the water, the EPA began promoting chloramination of water in 1994.

While the chloramines reduce the level of known DBPs, they create a host of unknown DBPs, some of which are extremely toxic.

In Corpus Christi, Texas, for example, where the water is treated only with chloramines, the reaction with the bromide and iodide laden source water creates some of the "most toxic and genotoxic DBPs" ever found.

Although chlorine has been used to disinfect water for over 100 years, less than 50 percent of the DBPs in chlorinated drinking water are known. With chloramines, only 17 percent of the DBPs have been identified.

"The unintended generation of DBPs poses a chronic health risk," Dr. Michael J. Plewa, a genetic toxicology expert at the University of Illinois, wrote. Plewa authored a 2004 EPA-funded study of the effects of chloramines in the water of Corpus Christi.

In the chloramine-treated water of Corpus Christi, Plewa's study discovered a number of new and extremely toxic DBP's: iodoacids.

"The iodoacetic acid is the most toxic and genotoxic DBP in mammalian cells reported in the literature," Plewa wrote. Of the known DBPs, the iodoacetic acid found in the drinking water of Corpus Christi was "the most toxic and DNA-

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