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Human Health Impacts of Contaminants Found in Local Drinking Water Supply

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COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT

THINK BEFORE YOU DRINK: WHAT'S IN YOUR WATER?

A thorough analysis of over 22 million tap water quality tests performed by the Environmental Working Group, an environmental watchdog organization, found 260 contaminants in public drinking water supplies, many in concentrations approaching or exceeding health-based limits set by the EPA.

Kennebec Water District Supplier

- Water supplied from China Lake, serves 22,478 people
- 18 contaminants** detected between 1998 and 2002
- 3 contaminants** found in **concentrations exceeding health-based limits**
 - Arsenic
 - 2 Trihalomethanes: Bromodichloromethane and Chloroform



WHERE DO THESE CONTAMINANTS COME FROM?

In addition to being naturally occurring, contaminants may enter drinking water supplies through industrial sources, agricultural practices, urban pollution, sprawl, and water treatment byproducts.

WHEN AM I EXPOSED TO THESE CONTAMINANTS?

Exposure occurs through ingestion, as well as dermal absorption and inhalation while bathing

SO WHAT?

Health risks for the general public include **skin damage, increased risk of cancer, circulatory problems, and multiple toxicities**. Some peoples such as children, pregnant women, and those with compromised immune systems are more vulnerable to the health risks associated with these contaminants.

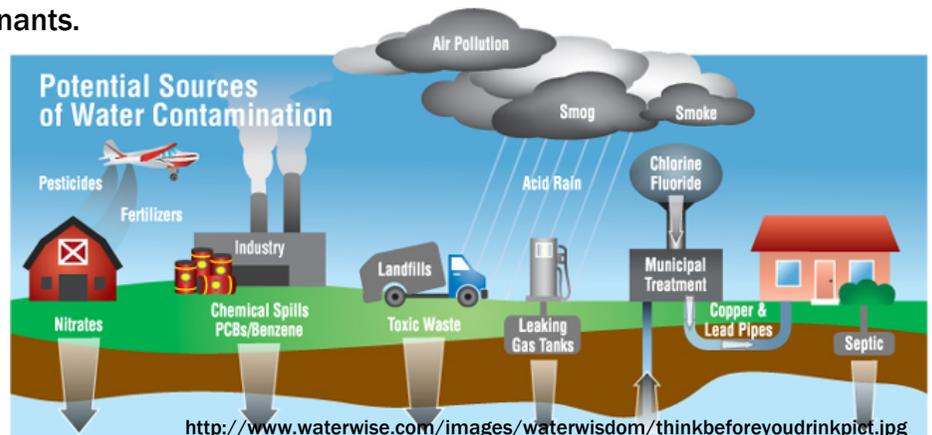
WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Alternatives

- Private well
- Water dispenser
- Bottled water

Reducing Exposure

- Activated carbon filter
- Ion exchange unit
- Reverse osmosis unit
- Distillation unit
- UV disinfection unit
- Combination treatment units



LEARN MORE!

EWG: <http://www.ewg.org/tapwater/yourwater/index.php>

EPA: <http://www.epa.gov/ebtpages/water.html>

Kennebec Water District: www.kennebecwater.org

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