UP THE CREEK
April 1, 2017

Before continuing, be warned that the following may contain ironic, possibly humorous content. People exposed to such writing over a long period may have an increased chance of smiling. After all, this is the April 1 edition.

It seems that operating a drinking water system is an unending battle against *contaminants*. As we improve our treatment process and comply with stricter regulation, one would think that we had almost run out of them. However, we regret to report the discovery of an insidious 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 and sometimes called hydric acid, is causing alarm in many public utilities. We recommend that you visit www.dhmo.org which is a website dedicated to the banning of dihydrogen monoxide, and presenting the following facts:

- Athletes dope themselves with dihydrogen monoxide (DHMO) to enhance performance.
- Thousands of people die each year after inhaling DHMO.
- DHMO is intoxicating when mixed with small quantities of ethanol.
- DHMO exists 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 and hurricanes, and has been implicated in catastrophic hailstorms. It is a major component of acid rain, capable of dissolving anything. Evidence indicates that it is a major greenhouse gas, far more potent than carbon dioxide as a potential cause of warming. Yet, when excessive quantities are released into the atmosphere, it inhibits sunlight, leading to sudden cooling and eventually an ice age composed of solid DHMO.

Rest assured that your staff at Up The Creek takes the threat of DHMO seriously, although we have not yet determined the best line of action to protect you from its effects. Boiling will eventually remove DHMO, but it takes quite a while, and emits gaseous DHMO into the atmosphere causing further harm, as pointed out above. Bottled water is not a good option, because the FDA has recently discovered quantities of DHMO in both Coke and Pepsi bottled water, but it is doubtful that the designer brands with foreign-sounding names actually contain DHMO.

Anyhow, we will tirelessly work toward a completely DHMO-free water system. It may help if you write to your congressman urging a ban on DHMO. If you do, remember to include its chemical formula – H_2O.

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