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## EPA Won't Remove Rocket Fuel From Water

Agency Says Health Risks Are Low, Critics Say EPA Is Protecting The Pentagon From Liability

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22, 2008

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(AP / CBS)

AnswerTips™ enabled (What's this?)

(CBS/AP) The Environmental Protection Agency has decided there is no need to rid drinking water of a toxic rocket fuel ingredient that has fouled public water supplies around the United States.

EPA reached the conclusion in a draft regulatory document not yet made public but reviewed Monday by The Associated Press.

The ingredient, **perchlorate**, has been found in at least 395 sites in 35 states at levels some scientists say could interfere with thyroid function and pose developmental health risks, particularly for babies and fetuses.

The EPA document says that mandating a cleanup level for perchlorate would not result in a "meaningful opportunity for health risk reduction for persons served by public-water systems."

The conclusion, which caps years of dispute over the issue, was denounced by Democrats and environmentalists who accused EPA of caving in to pressure from the Pentagon.

"This is a widespread contamination problem, and to see the Bush EPA just walk away is shocking," said Sen. Barbara Boxer, a Democrat who chairs the Senate's environment committee.

Lenny Siegel, director of the **Center for Public Environmental Oversight** in Mountain View, Calif., added: "This is an unconscionable decision not based

upon science or law but on concern that a more stringent standard could cost the government significantly."

The Defense Department used perchlorate for decades in testing missiles and rockets, and most perchlorate contamination is the result of defense and aerospace activities, congressional investigators said last year.

The Pentagon could face liability if EPA set a national drinking water standard that forced water agencies around the country to undertake costly cleanup efforts. Defense officials have spent years questioning EPA's conclusions about the risks posed by perchlorate.

The Pentagon objected strongly Monday to the suggestion that it sought to influence EPA's decision.

"We have not intervened in any way in EPA's determination not to regulate perchlorate. If you read their determination, that's based on criteria in the Safe Drinking Water Act," Paul Yaroschak, Pentagon deputy director for emerging contaminants, said in an interview.

Yaroschak said the Pentagon has been working for years to clean up perchlorate at its facilities. He also contended that the Pentagon was not the source of as much perchlorate contamination as once believed, noting that it also comes from fireworks, road flares and fertilizer.

Benjamin Grumbles, EPA's assistant administrator for water, said in a statement that "science, not the politics of fear in an election year, will drive our final decision."

"We know perchlorate in drinking water presents some degree of risk, and we're committed to working with states and scientists to ensure public health is protected and meaningful opportunities for reducing risk are fully considered," Grumbles said.

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Grumbles said the EPA expected to seek comment and take final action before the end of the year. The draft document was first reported Monday by the Washington Post.

Perchlorate is particularly widespread in California and the Southwest, where it has been found in groundwater and in the Colorado River, a drinking-water source for 20 million people. Its also has been found in lettuce and other foods.

In absence of federal action, states have acted on their own. In 2007, California adopted a drinking water standard of 6 parts per billion. Massachusetts has set a drinking water standard of 2 parts per billion.

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I posted something here earlier, but I have had some additional time to consider it -I have flip-flopped.

Considering all the run-offs of nitrate fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides from the agricultural industry; growth hormones and antibiotics from the meat and poultry industry; and the wasted cardiac and other medications we pee and p00p out daily from the health care; what is another chemical in our water supply?

The way I figure it, in about 30 or so years we won't need to fertilize our yards/gardent, need to take one pill to make us p00p, another to make us pee, another to lower cholesterol, one to decrease blood pressure, nitroglycerin for angina pectoris, a pill to control heart rate, a pill to control birth, a pill for dementia, another for psychotic disorders, a pill to help us sleep and another to awaken us, or a pill to control pain. All of these we will be able to get by drinking 6-8 glasses of water every day, something we should be doing anyway.

As has been said before, I want to die peacefully in my slppe like my grandfatehr did, not screaming in terror and fear like his passengers!

Posted by docpeter1953 at 10:24 AM : Sep 23, 2008  
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Now don't you just love this country? Where else can you get free rocket fuel in your drinking water?

What a great country we have!

Soon we'll be free of our moron President Bush and his bunch of dumbass Republicans!

Posted by masterballs2 at 10:22 AM : Sep 23, 2008  
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Put a few gallons in the white house drinking water then see if we get the waters cleaned up, opps too late, they are already idiots over there!

Posted by arlvabear at 10:18 AM : Sep 23, 2008  
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Is anyone surprised at another bush administration atrocity? President palin will have an even worse regime.

Posted by godseyesore at 09:26 AM : Sep 23, 2008  
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Potassium perchlorate has a 50% oral toxicity level of 2100 mg/kg body weight. Average human is around 70 kg, thus you need to eat around 140 g or about 4 oz of perchlorate for it to be toxic. At 6 ppm in water you'd need to drink a little over 6150 gallons of water to reach toxic levels of perchlorate. If any can do this, more power to them.



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Posted by usclimey at 09:21 AM : Sep 23, 2008  
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A more likely source is fluoride perchlorate- but they don't want you to know that they are poisoning us purposely.

Posted by caliengineer

There's no such thing as fluoride perchlorate. Both terms refer to negative ions that need positive ions to bond with. Thus you can have ammonium perchlorate or sodium fluoride but not fluoride perchlorate. This is Junior High chemistry - you can't be an engineer.

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Posted by usclimey at 09:11 AM : Sep 23, 2008  
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From the above article, "The Environmental Protection Agency has decided there is no need to rid drinking water of a toxic rocket fuel ingredient that has fouled public water supplies around the United States." ...

"The ingredient, perchlorate, has been found in at least 395 sites in 35 states at levels some scientists say could interfere with thyroid function and pose developmental health risks, particularly for babies and fetuses."

"The EPA document says that mandating a cleanup level for perchlorate would not result in a "meaningful opportunity for health risk reduction for persons served by public-water systems."

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Not to mention that this will also help keep big pharma going doing additional research and selling more drugs to cure the ills caused by these "spills".

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Posted by docpeter1953 at 08:55 AM : Sep 23, 2008  
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"Fluoride shrinks brains permanently and reduced IQs 10 to 20 points. Posted by caliengineer"

Must be a lot of it in the water in Texas and Wash. D.C.

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Posted by pirmin3 at 08:50 AM : Sep 23, 2008  
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There canNOT be anyone surprised by this right? The government couldn't care less about you and the poisons in your water. There is no such thing as "acceptable levels" when it comes to rocket fuel in the water and I don't need to be a rocket scientist to know this.

Have you ever noticed that children are reaching puberty earlier and earlier? Girls at 9 starting their cycles? Whatever happened to 14? Between the junk they pump into our meat, the pesticides they put on our produce and the junk in our water, there is no reason needed why there is so much cancer and disease in our society. But wait! There are plenty of drugs out there to keep us "healthy" once all that overtakes us right? People are so blind to what is going on around them. Reminds me of how people were oblivious to their lives in the Matrix. Sheeple

---

Posted by MyOpinion1 at 07:31 AM : Sep 23, 2008  
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Hey GOPers--  
EPA is supposed to stand for the Environmental Protection Agency, not the Environmental Pollution Agency

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Posted by ofbyfor2 at 07:22 AM : Sep 23, 2008  
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The EPA under the Bush Administration has once again demonstrated that protecting public health is less important than being friendly to industries that manufacture perchlorate or those that use these chemicals which contaminate our drinking water supplies...like the U.S. Military.

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