

WHATS IN YOUR WATER?

A 4 Minute Presentation by HENRY FARYNA - New York Water Sentinels

How many people here have seen the Capital One TV Credit Card Commercial with actor Samuel L. Jackson - WHATS IN YOUR WALLET. Well, its time to look at your water with the same skepticism

WE HAVE BEEN GETTING WAKE UP CALLS ON THIS ISSUE RECENTLY:

1. We all know that our infrastructure in this country is old and crumbling --- to include municipal water pipes. Leaky pipes not only leak ... they also pull dirty water back into the water flowing in the pipe. When municipalities publish the test results of their water tests in the paper each year - all seems well and good -----
--- HOWEVER THAT IS NOT A GUARANTEE OF WHAT IS IN THE WATER COMING INTO YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS.

2. The Flint Michigan lead scandal caused by failed political leadership is another example.

3. Just this week we all learned about THE LEAD ISSUE IN ITHACA SCHOOLS which may have been going on for the past 11 years.

I RECOMMEND THAT EVERYONE WHETHER ON A MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEM OR ON A PRIVATE WATER WELL TO (as a minimum) have their water tested for a wide range of heavy metals using the Kit 60 which I will discuss in a minute.

However, the people I am most concerned about are those that:

LIVE NEAR A GAS STORAGE SITEA LAND FILL: an abandoned landfill: or an industrial site – especially an abandoned industrial site.... OR GET YOUR DRINKING WATER DOWN STREAM FROM A WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT you should consider

CONDUCTING AN INITIAL COMPREHENSIVE WATER TEST ON YOUR DRINKING WATER.

See sites on the internet such as <http://www.karlabs.com/watertestkit> Review what the lab includes in the kits and the prices. For example their kit 60 costs \$49.95 and tests for 46 metals and heavy metals. Their 238 test kit costs \$89.95 and tests all the kit 60 items plus about 60 volatile organic compounds and for gasoline tracers. I am not associated in any way with KAR Labs. Check other websites for other companies offering similar very low prices.

***IF YOUR WATER IS OK NOW AND YOU ARE CONCERNED ***

THAT YOUR WATER IS AT RISK FROM POSSIBLE POLLUTION. CONSIDER ESTABLISHING A BASELINE RECORD OF YOUR WATER QUALITY FOR POSSIBLE USE IN COURT.

To accomplish this goal you will have to use a NY State certified lab. These labs charge for each test individually with the methane test alone running over \$100. The 238 tests cited above for \$89.95 can easily cost \$5,000 ... so it important to pick the fewest number of tests to meet your goals. With careful thought plus working out options with the lab in designing your tests – the cost may be brought down to \$200 for a person near a landfill.

I send my lab tests to CSI (Community Science Institute) in Ithaca, NY which is a NY State Certified lab. See their website at <http://communityscience.org> CSI folks will review your internet company report with you and recommend what they can do to meet your concerns – with your budget foremost.

CAUTIONS:

1. YOU CANNOT TAKE YOUR OWN WATER SAMPLE. A point to consider when preparing for possible court action is that the home owner cannot take their own water sample and just send it to a lab. To be admissible in court the sample has to be drawn from the water source by a duly experienced and impartial person and a written “chain of custody” log must be created and accompany the sample to the lab. CSI charges a fee for the time and expense for their representative to drive to a home, take the sample, and drive back to Ithaca. This cost can be made very affordable when split between 3 or 4 other people.

2. ONE WATER TEST WILL NOT STAND UP IN COURT. Land owners in Pennsylvania have shared their horror stories with me on this issue and noted that multiple lab tests over time are needed to establish a defensible record. The New York Water Sentinels currently use 4 lab samples over a two year period (about six months between each sample) to establish “baseline”. We have not as yet had our system tested in court: but it seems that taking 4 lab tests over two years will give you a fighting chance.