

### Things we Find Hard to Swallow

- ◇ 'best tasting' waters
- ◇ water 'filters'
- ◇ bottled waters'
- ◇ arsenic in chicken
- ◇ flaming toilets



### The Miller High Life of Waters

New York City's unfiltered reservoir water, formerly touted as the 'champagne of drinking waters', may now have to be filtered to remove the bubbles - and other stuff - at a projected cost of \$8 billion. Reportedly, the Big Apple's water was once shipped to other cities to make bagel and pizza dough. It is alleged to have even been sent to England to make the perfect cup of tea. Today, it is likely that neither USEPA nor Homeland Security will allow it to be taken on an airplane.

### A Flood of New Filters

In evaluating water filters in its May 2007 issue, Consumer Reports warns that "What's at stake may be more than just good taste." Of the 25 largest U.S. cities, their reading of CCRs tells them that "22 ... had samples that contained significant quantities of contaminants—things like lead, chlorine and E. coli.

As you might expect, most of the 'filters' evaluated by CU were plastic cartridges containing GAC and designed to attach to a carafe or faucet, or be installed on a countertop or under the sink (\$15 - \$350).

### Message in a Bottle

H<sub>2</sub>O'C has collected bottled waters for decades. We hope to share some insight into that source in our presentation at the October meeting of the MWWC in Columbia. We promise zero calories, 0% fat, no carbs, and no LDL cholesterol.

**4-hydroxy-3-nitrobenzene-arsonic acid** is added to the diet of 70% of the 9 billion broiler chicken produced annually in the U.S. Its breakdown products can add arsenic to our dietary intake; it can be excreted in chicken litter; and it may find its way into fertilizer pellets made for the home gardener.

With rising concern (not to mention, evidence) that elevated arsenic levels are being detected in raw chicken, the European Union banned the addition in 1999; Tyson Foods stopped using arsenic compounds in 2004; and McDonald's has asked its suppliers not to use arsenic additives.

The National Chicken Council notwithstanding, widespread disclosure of the current concerns may ensure that it won't be only water suppliers who will have to get the arsenic out.

### Hot Seat

'Faulty wiring' leading to smoke and fires has prompted Toto, Japan's leading toilet maker, to offer free repairs on 180,000 of their popular series Z electric bidet toilets.

The \$2,000 "Z" features a pulsating massage spray, a power dryer, built-in-the-bowl deodorizing filter, a 'Tornado Wash' flush and a lid that opens and closes automatically. *BanZai!*

