



May 11, 2011

Philadelphia Daily News  
400 N. Broad Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19130

Regarding William Bender's May 9 Daily News article, *Dread in the Water: High Levels of Iodine*, I would like to state unequivocally that Philadelphia's water remains safe to drink and that - at no time - ever - did the Water Department's drinking water exceed federal standards for public health and safety. This holds true for Iodine-131 and all other regulated contaminants in drinking water.

The chart used in Mr. Bender's article was just plain wrong. The EPA assures us that the results reported for Philadelphia do not exceed any regulatory standard or level of health concern. If they did, we would be the first to notify our customers, which include our own families and friends.

The Water Department has volunteered to participate in the EPA's RadNET program since 1978 specifically so that we can take every opportunity to be in the forefront of trends and issues in drinking water. We work with the EPA on a regular basis – exchanging information on research and activities that assist us in understanding the complexities of the natural water system and its implications on ensuring safe drinking water.

Please do not take any of this as a statement of complacency. In our efforts towards continuous improvement, we have taken the following proactive steps to guard us from any future water quality anomalies:

- Enhanced treatment at our Queen Lane Water Treatment Plants
- Initiated comprehensive sampling at all Water Treatment Plants
- Implemented an aggressive track down program with USEPA and PaDEP to identify the potential sources of any Iodine-131 into our source waters.

Protecting and preserving Philadelphia's drinking water is our top priority. Always.

Sincerely yours,

HOWARD M. NEUKRUG, P.E., BCEE  
Water Commissioner