

Sent: Monday, June 28, 2004 11:45 AM
Subject: PRISTINE ONCE...AND THE FUTURE ?

Dear Aquathin Dealer OnLine, Splash NewsBulletin and Allergic Reaction NewsBulletin Members;

In the recent past I've sent you newsbulletins concerning the presence of pollution in some of the most pristine places on Earth, including trout streams in farout regions in Scotland, and breast milk of mothers in igloos in Alaska. Untouched parts of Utah are not "untouched" as you will read below. Especially remarkable is the levels of concentrations, types of pollutants including DDT...and the apparent light-bulb-going-off-in-the-head comment from an official...that we've been espousing for 25 years. Now they know exactly what it means when we say "everyone lives downstream from somebody else".

I love my Aquathin !

Warmest regards to all...as well, your comments are always welcome and very much appreciated.

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Alfred J. Lipshultz, President

P.S. "Splash NewsBulletins", "Forum Q & A", "Allergic Reaction", Biz Bank, Tech Bank and Quote Bank... ARE ALL FREE services to all Authorized Aquathin Dealers and their clients to keep you abreast of technology updates and industry news.

THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

WEDNESDAY June 23, 2004

Pollutants taint N. Utah watershed

By Brent Israelsen
The Salt Lake Tribune

More than 30 years after the insecticide DDT was banned, it continues to show up in the wetlands of the Great Salt Lake and in the tissues of fish in the Bear, Weber and Jordan rivers.

The herbicides and pesticides we spray on our gardens today? You can find those on any given day in the Jordan River.

The fertilizer we spread on our lawns? Look for it to run off into the river or percolate into the aquifers from which we draw our drinking water.

Even the hydrocarbons from our car exhaust can get deposited into the ecologically rich wetlands of the Great Salt Lake.

These are a few of the findings released Tuesday by the U.S. Geological Survey, which recently analyzed a five-year, \$8 million study of the watersheds of the Great Salt Lake. The study is intended to help water managers, environmental regulators and politicians plan for growth while protecting the environment.

While concluding generally that water quality in northern Utah's streams and aquifers is "good" and in most cases meets existing national standards, USGS scientists raised a number of warning flags for the Great Salt Lake watersheds, which support 1.7 million Utahns.

The study, part of a coast-to-coast effort known as the National Water Quality Assessment Program, found that concentrations of a variety of pollutants are showing up routinely in northern Utah's waters.

For example, pesticides were detected in 95 percent of the streams sampled by USGS scientists. Phosphorus exceeded federal limits in just 21 percent of the samples, but the highest concentrations were recorded in Silver Creek and Little Cottonwood Creek, where concentrations were 24 times the limit.

Most disturbing to water managers are findings related to deep aquifers, a major and relatively cheap source of drinking water.

"It is obviously a concern that those principal aquifers are not protected from contamination. [This study] indicates the vulnerability of the aquifers," said Patrick Lambert, the USGS' chief of water resources in Utah.

The study confirms what the Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District, Utah's largest purveyor of municipal water, has long suspected: That man-made pollutants are contaminating shallow aquifers that the district plans to develop for population growth. Those plans may become more problematic as the water district struggles to find a cost-effective way to remove the contaminants to drinking water standards -- then find a suitable place to dump the contaminants.

In the shallow aquifers near the Jordan River, scientists have found a virtual cocktail of nasty stuff, including solvents, such as trichloroethylene, a degreaser, and chloroform, a byproduct of chlorine used to disinfect drinking water.

Most surprising to Richard Bay, Jordan Valley assistant general manager, were the high levels of nitrates

The study revealed that the median concentration of nitrates in the shallow groundwater in Salt Lake County is 6.3 milligrams per liter -- nearly five times the national median for similar urban areas and the highest of 34 studies compiled across the nation.

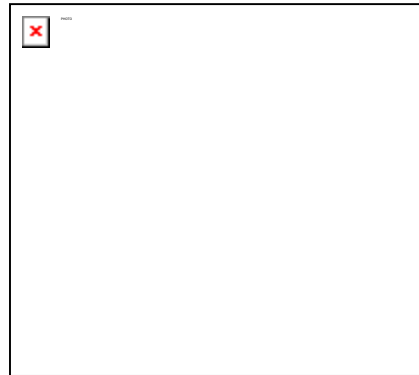
Although nitrates occur naturally, these elevated levels most likely are due to leaking septic systems, faulty sewage collection pipes and fertilizer runoff from residential and commercial landscaping, according to the study.

And the nitrates may spread to the deep aquifers. Twelve of 31 public-supply wells already have shown nitrate concentrations greater than natural "background" levels.

The groundwater contamination is not limited to the populous Wasatch Front.

In Cache County, researchers have found that deep wells, which supply most of the county's drinking water, have detectable levels of some contaminants.

Thad Erickson, coordinator of the county's Water Advisory Board, said Cache water managers have been "complacent" in thinking that an upward flow of water underground was protecting the deep wells from surface contamination.



A message on an overpass at Little Cottonwood Creek in Salt Lake County admonishes people not to dump pollutants into the stream, part of the Salt Lake Valley's watershed. A new study found the insecticide diazinon and herbicide prometon in 90 percent of samples drawn from the creek.
Griffin/The Salt Lake Tribune

pollution.

"We thought we could pollute like heck," Erickson said. "But some of these man-made chemicals are showing up in the deep places where we didn't think they could go."

The sources of pollution in the Great Salt Lake watersheds are urban and agricultural, residential and industrial. Not only do they pose a potential threat to humans, they are putting the nonhuman environment at risk.

Despite the 32-year ban on DDT, scientists are noticing inexplicably increasing concentrations of the organochlorine compound in Farmington Bay sediment.

USGS biologist Anne Brasher said most places in America are showing decreasing levels of DDT, which causes reproductive failure in birds, most notably the bald eagle and peregrine falcon.

The pesticide atrazine was found in 100 percent of the samples taken from the Jordan River, which is home to a variety of fish, birds and other wildlife.

In Little Cottonwood Creek below the mouth of the canyon, USGS hydrologist Jay Cederberg and his colleagues found the insecticide diazinon and the herbicide prometon in 90 percent of their samples.

"I don't know why you'd want to go fishing in Little Cottonwood Creek," he said.