

WATER NEWS ON TAP

Improving The Taste Of Drinking Water

(NAPSA)—Fruits and vegetables may not be the only things on your table that go in and out of season. Your drinking water may, too.

A phenomenon called Seasonal Lake Changes can affect drinking water supplies, giving water a noticeable earthy or musty taste and odor. The change can occur when seasons shift and temperatures drop, and it affects many of the 182 million people the EPA says get their water from surface sources such as lakes and reservoirs.

Seasonal Lake Change is caused by compounds released from blue-green algae living in surface water. This algae grows through the summer and reaches its peak during the fall. Cooling temperatures also cause the surface water to mix with the even cooler, deeper water (and the sediment it holds). This natural process causes a noticeable change in the taste and odor of drinking water from surface sources.

“Many scientists believe that taste, odor, and quality-related problems with drinking water will continue to rise,” said Dr. David Walker, a research scientist at the University of Arizona. “In several cases, water treatment facilities can’t afford to or are otherwise caught off-guard and do not adequately remove taste and odor compounds from drinking water.”

Dr. Walker adds that while Seasonal Lake Changes are not harmful, people can easily and inexpensively do something to improve the taste of their drink-



Seasonal Lake Changes can affect the taste of drinking water.

ing water. “Simply attach a water filter to your faucet,” he says.

According to the NSF International and WQA (Water Quality Association), filtering your drinking water at the point of use is one of the most effective ways to improve taste and quality. For instance, people can use a three-stage faucet mounted filter called the PUR 3-Stage Filtration System that’s designed to improve taste. The first stage helps remove sediment from the water. The second stage is designed to reduce contaminants, odor and cloudiness. The third stage filters the water over natural minerals, helping to give it a more crisp, refreshing taste.

Such filters can be a good way to maintain the quality of drinking water—throughout the year.

For more information, visit www.lakechanges.com.