

Wallulis, Stanley. "Source/Treatment Reliability." Tigard: Citizens for Safe Water, 2003.

(Reviewed by Jessica Miller)

Stanley Wallulis' report on water treatment brings together many examples from across the country of poor water treatment and connects them to the water treatment issues in the Tigard, Wilsonville, Tualatin, Sherwood, and Tualatin Valley Water Districts.

The report serves to show how water treatment operations have gone wrong and the horrible consequences to follow. His main point is that the effects of many of the pollutants and chemicals that go untreated will not be measurable until too late. There is a large lag time between the exposure of water consumers and the potentially fatal results. Thus, it is not easy to regulate water treatment nearly as efficiently as necessary.

Wallulis recalls an incident in Milwaukee, Wisconsin from 1993 when a water treatment plant allowed for a cryptosporidium outbreak leading to "400,000 people sick, 4,000 hospitalized, and caused more than 50 deaths." He goes on to discuss the difficulties in removing pollutants, Willamette River specific issues, lack of public knowledge, reliability and liability, and harmful by-products. Among these topics he includes the possible human health effects of ozonation such as carcinogenic concentrations of formaldehyde, microbial growth, and gastrointestinal disease.

Critique

Stanley Wallulis clearly presents a biased argument against current water treatment standards and operations. He carefully combines scientific data with impressive quotes to convince the reader of the atrocities that he claims. The report overall is somewhat difficult to read as it jumps from topic to topic in a rather unorganized manner. Some of the report is helpful in finding background information and specific examples of previous water treatment problems. However, scientific discussion is thrown into the middle of such examples and is difficult to understand as it lacks a natural flow. Wallulis obviously wrote this report with the Tigard area's residents and the Citizens for Safe Water in mind as the audience.

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