



EPA Inaction in Identifying Hazardous Waste Pharmaceuticals May Result in Unsafe Disposal

By U S Environmental Protection Agency

Createspace, United States, 2014. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 279 x 216 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.The discovery of a variety of pharmaceuticals in surface, ground, and drinking waters around the country has raised concerns about the potentially adverse environmental consequences of these contaminants. Although the effects on humans are unknown, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports that some research has demonstrated the potential impact to human health from exposure to pharmaceuticals found in drinking water, such as antibiotics and those that interfere with human hormone development. In addition, minute concentrations of some pharmaceuticals can have detrimental effects on aquatic species, such as hormonal imbalances leading to feminization and reproductive problems in fish populations. Studies have suggested the detection of pharmaceutical compounds in treated wastewater effluent, streams, lakes, seawater, and groundwater, as well as in sediments and fish tissue. For example, during 1999 and 2000, the United States Geological Survey conducted a study of 139 streams across the country and detected pharmaceutical compounds in 80 percent of the streams sampled. In the 2008 proposed universal waste rule, EPA defines a pharmaceutical as any chemical product, vaccine, or allergenic, not containing a radioactive component,...



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