

# Meanwhile Back at the Farm...May 17, 2001

Howdy Folks,

So much for the "early summer" we were having. The cooler weather is a bit of a relief after those weltering days the week before. The only lasting damage seems to be that our turnips acquired some radish-like bite and the daikon bolted. All in all not too bad for our first heat wave.

## The Food

Broccoli: From another farm

Arugula flowers: Use the flowers and buds in your salads or stir-fry.

Lettuce: From another farm

Onions: Spring Onions- They are just starting their bulbing and are chock full of sugar. Over the next few weeks you'll watch them progress. You might consider grilling these for a real treat.

Russet Potatoes: Although common, a Luther Burbank heirloom variety.

Carrots: from another farm.

Giant Red Mustard: From Matadero-It's excellent in stir-fry or you could steam it a little to make it limp and roll your favorite rice-veggie mix into the leaf and eat it like a burrito.

Oregano: So good fresh

## SAVE OUR ENVIRONMENT ACTION CENTER UPDATE

By using the Save Our Environment Action Center [<http://www.saveourevironment.org>], you are working together with the nation's most influential environmental advocacy groups in the crucial battles to protect our air and water, forests and oceans, climate, wilderness, and wildlife.

May 2, 2001

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The Bush administration has given the public an appallingly short time period -- 14 days! -- to officially be heard on its plan to yank the new rule that reduced the acceptable level of arsenic in our drinking water and re-open the issue to further study. Speak out now!

To email an official comment, just reply to this message (do it today!).

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On March 20th Environmental Protection Agency administrator Christie Whitman announced that the Bush administration would suspend the revised arsenic standard for drinking water issued by the outgoing Clinton administration in January. More than a month passed, however, until the EPA announced an official comment period concerning it's decision. To make matters worse, the agency is giving the public an almost unheard-of absurdly short timeframe (14 days!) to speak out on this critical issue.

The current U.S. arsenic-in-drinking-water standard of 50 parts per billion (ppb) was set in 1942, before health officials knew that arsenic causes cancer. The revised rule would have lowered the acceptable arsenic level to 10 ppb, the same international standard adopted several years ago by the World Health Organization and the European Union.

The National Academy of Sciences has determined that arsenic in water causes bladder, lung and skin cancer, and may cause kidney and liver cancer, birth defects and reproductive problems. Arsenic also harms the central nervous system and heart.

Please send the EPA a message today. We've made it easy for you -- just reply to this email and we'll automatically email the message below to the EPA's official comment address. Or, if you prefer to send your own message, the address to use is [ow-docket@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:ow-docket@epamail.epa.gov) [please use "Arsenic Docket #W-99-16-IV" as your subject line].

Once again, thanks for being part of the Save Our Environment activist network and for taking action to help preserve and protect the Earth's natural treasures and quality of life. Remember, you can increase the impact of your support by encouraging your family and friends to visit the Save Our Environment Action Center as well. We've made it easy for you with our "Tell a Friend" feature which allows you to send an electronic postcard right from the site.

Save Our Environment Action Center --

<http://www.saveourevironment.org/>

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Email message -- just reply to this email and we'll send this message to the official EPA comment address.

Subject: Arsenic Docket #W-99-16-IV

Water Docket (MC-410)  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Whitman and EPA staff,

I strongly oppose your decision to suspend the new 10 parts per billion arsenic-in-drinking-water standard and re-open this issue to further study. The new standard was a result of more than a decade of scientific reviews, public hearings, and discussions with health experts and industry. In addition, the 10 ppb level is the international standard adopted several years ago by the World Health Organization and the European Union.

Delaying implementation of the standard only serves to increase profits for polluters, such as the mining industry and other corporate interests, at the expense of the public's health. I urge you to reverse your decision and immediately implement the 10 ppb standard. If you do decide to re-open this issue for further study, however, you should adopt an even stronger standard (3 ppb), not a weaker one.

Sincerely,

[your name and address]