Aug 10, 2015 Central Florida Water Initiative Comments

In your books on the Central Florida Water Initiative, the suggestion has been put forth to use injection wells to put treated waste water back into one of the aquifer layers. I think this is a bad idea. This is an idea that keeps resurfacing periodically over the years. My father installed turbine pumps on agriculture properties throughout Lake and Polk counties and he thought it was a bad idea back in the 1970's.

About 20 years ago, I read a science article that mentioned a group tested for pharmaceuticals in water, and were astonished to find antibiotics, hormones, cancer drugs etc. If your stardards for determining treated water only test for the lack of bacteria and intestinal parasites, then technically the water is clean. If you don't look for it – then it is not there and one can say THE WATER IS CLEAN.

Before water is injected into the aquifer, I want to know how you are going to remove pharmaceuticals or their metabolites from the water and to what level - parts per thousand, parts per billion, etc. that is considered safe. How are you going to test for pharmaceuticals? As I understand it pharmaceuticals cannot be removed except by Reverse Osmosis on the back end of the waste water plant.

I would like some real answers not an answer that our water as currently tested is safe, which is basically the answer I received at the Water Summit on 8-10-15. This is a true answer but only for what is currently required testing and I do not know what the current required tests are. Therefore, if you are not required to test for pharmaceuticals then your statement is true.

I also opposed to drinking treated waste water until the pharmaceutical issue can be determined and fixed if needed.

Possibly, the treated waste water could be used to raise the levels on some lakes. If the treated waste water soaked through the sandy lake bottom due to an incorrect potentiometric pressure the sand should act as a filter.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Sharon B Garrett
PO Box 1332
Haines City, Fl 33884