

NJ Assembly addresses meds-in-water issue

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TRENTON, NJ — The New Jersey Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee was scheduled to receive comments and testimony on May 12 from invited speakers regarding environmental and health implications of pharmaceutical products in New Jersey drinking water, according to the [New Jersey Legislature](#) Web site.

The committee also was expected to address possible solutions for minimizing any potentially adverse effects.

The hearing is in response to a March Associated Press (AP) [report](#) that 41 million Americans in 24 major metropolitan areas receive their drinking water from public supplies containing trace amounts of a variety of human and veterinary drug compounds ranging from antibiotics and estrogen compounds to anti-depressants and caffeine, according to a May 12 Associated Press report in the [Houston Chronicle](#).

Some of the most detailed testing for the five-month investigation was done at the Passaic Valley Water Commission in northern New Jersey. Some samples of that utility's treated water contained all or some of the following: the painkiller codeine, an anti-convulsant drug, the remnants of a drug to reduce chest pains, and caffeine, the AP reported.

The Passaic Valley Water Commission posted a [statement](#) on its Web site following release of the March AP report saying, "The fact that a substance is detectable does not mean that the substance is harmful to humans."