

Immediate Release
March 11, 2008

Contact: David Chauvin
516.829.8374

Water Conference Responds to Report of Pharmaceuticals in Drinking Water

Melville, NY – Long Island Water Conference Chairman Ken Claus today responded to a recent report from the Associated Press, which examined the presence of pharmaceuticals in the drinking water.

“Residents should rest assured that Long Island drinking water is perfectly safe,” said Chairman Claus. “Unlike many cities in our nation that obtain their water from surface water such as rivers and lakes, our drinking water is supplied by deep groundwater aquifers which percolate through natural gravel and clay filters and are less susceptible to contamination from pharmaceuticals.”

The first priority of the water suppliers on Long Island is to protect public health. As part of this commitment, water professionals have been researching the occurrence of personal care products and pharmaceutical compounds in the drinking water supply for more than 10 years.

Recent advances in testing instruments has allowed scientists to detect more man-made substances at unbelievably low levels. The limited testing that has occurred on Long Island has shown that our deep supply wells have not been impacted by pharmaceuticals.

As more and more research is being conducted on these emerging contaminants, additional testing will be conducted to ensure that our water supply remains safe to drink.

“We encourage anyone with questions or concerns to contact their local water supplier,” added Chairman Claus.