An Uphill Battle !!!!
Regaining Public Confidence
The Perfect Storm Hits

• Trihalomethanes
  – MCL Violations for years
  – Customer notifications
  – Commissioner’s order to build Filtration plant

• During Plant Construction
  – MCL violation for Total Coliform
    • Press releases, news conferences, public notices, direct mail to customers with mandatory health language

• Lead Rule Monitoring Starts
  – 90th% reaches 160 ppb
  – Public notification and education
Water warning

Bacteria level prompts alert for thousands in Utica area

By DALE MAZER
Observer-Dispatch

The drinking water for thousands of Utica area residents is contaminated with high levels of bacteria.

The particular strain of bacteria discovered this month does not pose a health threat, but officials admit knowing little about it.

The bacteria, called "Coliform," has been found in the Utica Board of Water Supply system and has been a problem for some time. The state limit allowed for a whole month was exceeded.

In the past two weeks, the bacteria has been found in Utica's water supply, which serves the city and most of its suburbs, at almost the same time. It has been a concern for public health officials, who have noted the presence of similar contamination in the water supply.

The drinking water is safe to drink, but residents are advised to boil the water before using it for drinking or cooking. There has been no order to boil water, but the precaution is recommended due to the presence of bacteria.

U.S. Public Health officials said that the bacteria, a kind of coliform, has never been shown to cause disease and therefore the water should be safe.

But they're not sure.

"Some strains cause disease," said...
Bacteria ‘just went wild’ in routine test

By DALE MAZER
Observer-Dispatch

When Utica’s water showed coliform bacteria it was a bolt from the blue.

The water had not tested positive in years, said Connie Schreppel, a biochemist with the city’s Board of Water Supply.

But for some reason, some coliform began to show up in October. On Nov. 6, “it just went wild,” she said.

Between Nov. 6 and Nov. 13, the city passed the limit for the whole month.

In the City Hall lab, water samples (100 are required per month) are filtered through small, round test papers and laid into Petrie dishes.

If coliform is present, it shows up as a small, shiny green dot. Until Jan. 1, when state requirements were tightened, the city was allowed to have 5 percent of the Petrie dishes show more than four shiny green dots. Fewer than four dots was considered normal.

This year, only 5 percent of those tests were permitted to show even one green dot. So far this month, 13 percent of the dishes have had dots.

Several have had dozens of dots each.

In other words, the coliform levels in the Utica water supply are the stringent ones.

The level of bacteria has not...
Is the water safe?
LaPolla downplays health risk; confused public begs for answers

By DALE MAZER
Observer-Dispatch

Area residents concerned about the safety of their drinking water bombarded their elected officials with calls yesterday.

Many of the residents, more than 50 of whom called Utica City Hall alone, wanted to know if the officials were drinking the water themselves.

"I told them, 'Yes, I am,'" said Utica Mayor Louis D. LaPolla, whose home telephone started ringing at 7:10 a.m.

But New Hartford Supervisor John Kazanjian had a different answer for the dozen or so town residents who called him.

"Absolutely not," he said he told them.

The city announced Thursday that its water, which serves about 335,000 customers in and around Utica, is contaminated with high levels of coliform bacteria. The particular strain in the area supply—Lactococcus adhaerens—is not known to cause any disease, but the water has failed a month's worth of water quality tests in just two weeks.
LOCAL

Amodio: Uticans should boil water now

By AUDREY LEWIS
Observer-Dispatch

Councilman Roger Amodio, R-3, last night said he doesn’t want Utica residents to wait four months before they are ordered to boil the water.

David Fredericksen, a research scientist for the state Health Department, in a Sunday Observer-Dispatch article, said the Utica Board of Water Supply cannot prove conclusively that sewage is not leaking into the water pipes.

He further indicated the seepage via crossed lines is ‘not likely’ since the bacteria in Utica’s water is not known to come from sewage and bacteria problem has not existed for 100 years.

Whether likely or not, Amodio said the “idea that sewage may be involved” is “very upsetting.”

“Even though the possibility is remote, people should boil the water and boil it now. Better safe than sorry,” he said.

In late-October, laboratory technicians started noticing coliform bacteria in the daily water quality tests. According to state standards, the system is allowed to show contamination in up to 5 percent of the tests before it fails for the month.

In November, the coliform was found in 33.3 percent of the samples taken from all over the distribution system.

A boil water order may not be issued until water has failed to meet state standards for four consecutive months. If that procedure is followed, water users would not be forced to start boiling their water until March.

“I see no reason to wait until March to start boiling water,” Amodio said. “I totally disagree with David Fredericksen that we should before ordering the state supply and order all water from the local system.”

Utica Zoo visitors ‘decked the hall’ with hot water

By ANNETTE JIMENEZ
Observer-Dispatch

The Utica Zoo was abuzz with holiday cheer yesterday afternoon as parents and children flocked with gifts for the animals’ “Holiday Gift Party.”

Michelle Barnett, public relations director, said the event was designed to help the zoo feel the animals through the winter months, the most economically difficult period.

Because the zoo does not charge admission during the winter, the zoo has no incoming revenue during the season, Barnett said.

“This is a great way to help the animals,” she said.

During the party in the wildlife building’s auditorium, visitors brought gifts of

In hot water

Tempers flow at board meeting

By DALE MAZER
Observer-Dispatch

The chairman of the Utica Common Council’s Water Board Committee last night accused the water board’s engineer of not taking the city water’s contamination seriously enough.

Councilman Roger Amodio, R-3, admonished engineer Russell LoGalbo for what he called “word games” and a lack of serious action to solve the problem.

“You are an employee of the city, and you have a responsibility to address our concerns,” Amodio said, raising his voice at LoGalbo.

Amodio said, LoGalbo said...
Troubled water: Utica-area customers warned about bacteria

You can brush, but you don’t have to boil

By DALE MAZER
and BILL FARRELL
Observer Dispatch

Here are some questions and answers relating to the bacteria contamination of the Utica area’s water supply.

QUESTION: Should I boil my water?
ANSWER: Only if it will make you feel better. The city has not issued a boil water order. The water should be safe to drink because the kind of coliform present has never been known to cause disease.

Q: Can I brush my teeth safely?
A: Yes.

Q: Will freezing kill the bacteria? Are my ice cubes safe?
A: Experts believe the onset of cold weather — or freezing — will kill the bacteria, but are quick to add that they don’t know everything about this form of bacteria.

Q: Is there any threat to babies, such as bottle-feeding them in city water?
A: Officials say there is no threat.

Q: Is there any other danger in this water?
A: Some forms of coliform are dangerous. For example, E. coli, commonly called E. coli, is only found in feces. It can only be found in the large intestines of warm-blooded animals, including humans. The bacteria is “something to be concerned about, but it is nothing to be alarmed about.” The presence of these bacteria in drinking water generally does not cause disease.

Chemical in water linked to cancer

By MIKE HOUSTON
Observer Dispatch

Clear, healthy water has been the exception, not the norm — for Utica Board of Water Supply customers over the past few years.

Yesterday’s revelation of further problems with the quality of water to the board’s 135,000 customers continues a trend that led to the state’s issuance a few years ago that Utica build a multi-million-dollar water filtration plant. After much political debate, Utica chose not to build such a plant.

In 1991, the board’s water was found to contain a chemical called 1,4-dioxane. The chemical is known to cause cancer in laboratory animals exposed to it. The board’s water has been found to contain 1,4-dioxane ever since.

Health experts show concern, not panic

By BILL FARRELL
Observer Dispatch

The coliform bacteria that has been found in Utica’s water supply system is not known to cause diarrhea or any other water-borne disease, state and national health officials said yesterday.

E. coli is one of six kinds of coliform. While not well known, there is “nothing to be alarmed about,” said David Fredericksen, a research scientist with the State Disease Control in Atlanta, said there has never been a report of this particular strain causing disease. “That’s not to say it’s never caused one, but it has never been reported.”

Moore said she didn’t have any further information. Attempts to reach someone at the center who did know were unsuccessful.

Fredericksen, Utica officials, and members of the Utica Board of Water Supply said yesterday that the presence of these bacteria in drinking water generally does not cause disease. The bacteria is “something to be concerned about, but it is nothing to be alarmed about,” he said. "There are quite a number of strains in this species that are normally in the human gut."

The chemical 1,4-dioxane has been found in Utica’s water supply for years. The chemical is known to cause cancer in laboratory animals exposed to it. The board’s water has been found to contain 1,4-dioxane ever since.

In 1991, the board’s water was found to contain a chemical called 1,4-dioxane. The chemical is known to cause cancer in laboratory animals exposed to it. The presence of these bacteria in drinking water generally does not cause disease.
CHIA Goldfish

Just drop these fish into any bowl containing Utica water – and watch as lush, green fur gradually covers them!
Some Christmas gifts that were promptly brought back to...

Returns 'R' Us...

Coliform Pet

No seeds required.

Just add tap water, watch lush, green bacteria grow!
Utica water still flunking tests

Area may be boiling if bacteria don’t go

By DALE MAZER
Observer-Dispatch

Utica water failed more than four times as many tests as allowed by state standards last month and is heading for failure in December as well, a state official warns.

The water is allowed to fail for four months before users are ordered to boil water, said David Fredericksen, a research scientist for the state Health Department.

In late October, laboratory technicians started noticing coliform bacteria in the daily water quality tests. According to state standards, the system is allowed to show contamination in up to 5 percent of the tests before it fails for the month.

In November, the coliform was found in 20.3 percent of the samples taken from all over the distribution system.

"That's a fairly hefty level," Fredericksen said.

In the first two days of testing in December, the water has already failed 12.5 percent of the tests. Two samples were contaminated of the 16 taken in that time. Oneida County public health engineer Louis Ferrara said.

"It looks like they're well on their way to failing this month too," Fredericksen said.

By DALE MAZER
Observer-Dispatch

Even though the coliform bacteria invading Utica's water supply are thought to be harmless, water users will be forced to start boiling their water in March if the problem still exists.

That's partly because the Utica Board of Water Supply cannot qualify for a variance that would allow it to forego a public health hazard notice and boil water order.

David Fredericksen, a research scientist for the state Health Department and the person who decides whether cities qualify for such variances, said he would not grant the extension to the water board because it cannot prove conclusively that sewage is not leaking into the water pipes.

The Utica water and sewer systems are very old, Fredericksen said. Many of the pipes were installed around the turn of the century, and it is possible — although not likely — that the lines were crossed somewhere along the decades, allowing sewage to seep into the water pipes.

See BOIL, Page 2A

See WATER, Page 2A
NOW PLAYING... "Don't Go Near the Water"

BARTENDER, I'LL HAVE A SCOTCH AND WATER.

WATER?! DON'T YOU CARE ABOUT YOUR HEALTH?

THIS SQUIRT GUN IS LOADED WITH TAP WATER! HAND OVER THE GOODS, OR I'LL LET YA HAVE IT!

I TOOK YOU... NEVER TO WASH YOUR HANDS BEFORE DINNER!

I'VE BEEN DRINKING IT ALL MY LIFE, AND I'M JUST FINE!

ME, TOO!
Utica water: Opinions split

Utica school district to buy bottled water

By GAYLE BROWN
Observer-Dispatch

Utica schools will soon serve bottled water in classrooms because the district physician says he can’t get a straight answer about the city’s water contamination problem.

“It’s my recommendation we use bottled water until we get a clearer picture of what’s happening with the city water,” said Dr. John Hobbs.

Utica’s water has high levels of coliform bacteria, exceeding acceptable state levels for water safety. Residents concerned about water safety can boil their water for two minutes, but such precautions are probably unnecessary as this strain of coliform is not known to cause disease, said officials of the Utica Board of Water Supply.

Superintendent of Schools Ta-rae Johnson was asked if he will buy water for the students. He said he needs more information before making a decision.

The bottled water is just a necessary precaution,” Hobbs said.

Utica is the second school district to make this announcement. Last week, New Hartford schools brought in bottled water for students and faculty uncomfortable with city water, superintendent of schools Robert Bradley said.

Hobbs said he spoke to Russell LaGallo, principal engineer for the Utica water board, and Louis Ferrara, public health engineer with the Oneida County Health Department.

“Mr. LaGallo said the current water status is not going to have much of an impact and Ferrara said there’s no order given to boil water and he feels the bacteria species are harmless,” Hobbs said.

Based on those remarks, Hobbs recommended bottled water as a temporary measure.

For Utica students, Thanksgiving break begins today. Students return to school on Monday.

Suburban leaders assured water is safe to drink

By DAVE MARE
Observer-Dispatch

Despite three one-gallon jugs of bottled water sitting in front of them, Monday’s water experts told more than 60 suburban Utica leaders they’re safe to drink water.

The experts — including state Health Department scientist David Fredericksen, Utica Board of Water Supply Principal Engineer Russell LaGallo and city biochemist Connie Schreppel — ignored the jugs spread across their table and told the audience that Utica water is quite safe to drink.

“Don’t know who put that erkson echoed.

Amounts of coliform bacteria exceeding state standards have contaminated the city’s water supply since the beginning of the month. Experts have tried to reassure water users this particular strain — Leclercia adecarboxylata — is not thought to cause health problems.

But the leaders, whose constituents comprise half of the water system’s users, wanted to hear it for themselves. Their community met and decided to bring the water for New Hartford, Holland Patent, Marcy, Whetstone, Deerfield and New York Mills, among others.

State officials explained about the contamination in Utica reports.

New Hartford Town Supervisor John Kazian said, who led the meeting, stated the problem away from questions regarding the lack of communication. Instead, they asked specific questions about the contamination and its health effects.

Fresenius told the assembled crowd clear water without symptoms.

He said the water is probably safer than the mist everyone is used to.
**AMAZING... BUT TRUE!**

UPSTATE SLOW TO CATCH ON TO A FAD? CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, THE MOHAWK VALLEY ACTUALLY STARTED THE POT-BELLED PIG CRAZE...

MEET MY HUSBAND, VINNIE...

HOW YOOZ DOIN'? If utica drinking water ever reaches normal bacteria levels, it could actually be harmful to residents who have now developed a...

CHLORINE DEPENDENCY!

WHAT'S WITH THIS WATER? IT TASTES AWFUL! PASS ME THE CLOROX.
How public relations for the Utica water board plans to make adding chloramines to the water easier to swallow...

Plan A
Sure, it kills tropical fish! That's the whole idea! Exotic fish in the water mains are the source of the problem!

Plan B
Shoot! Just 'cuz it annihilates aquatic life, don't mean it's bad for humans! I mean.... 'Raid' just kills bugs... right?

Plan C
Whiter Whites!
the TOP TEN Reasons why the Utica Board of Water Supply will be adding AMMONIA to the drinking water...

10. So it will clean glass without streaking.
9. It gives the water a delightful 'zesty' flavor.
8. Fits in with their policy of, 'We'll get rid of this harmless bacteria if it kills us!'
7. Cat owners can blame the odor on tap water.
6. It allows the chlorinating to react with the coliform to create chloroform, which renders the bacteria unconscious.
5. Because, it's mm...mm... good!
4. Three words: Goldfish population management.
3. It begins with the letter A—next, they try adding chemicals that start with B.
2. Sure, it tastes terrible, but it kills the germs that can cause bad breath.

And the #1 Reason for adding AMMONIA to the drinking water...
1. At the last minute, 'Draino' was ruled out.
Lead levels among state’s worst

Special report: Lead in Utica’s water

Lead level highest: Nature of water, age of housing a factor.

By GLENN COIN
Observer-Dispatch

Utica-area residents drink more lead in their tap water than residents of any other major city in the state, according to recent tests.

Experts blame the high levels on the natural qualities of Utica’s water and the number of old homes that have lead pipes. The Utica Board of Water Supply serves 185,000 people in greater Utica.

Lead can cause high blood pressure in adults and brain damage in children. Experts caution that lead from drinking water alone probably won’t cause any health problems, it can contribute to problems if people are exposed to lead from other sources.

Water experts urge residents to run pipes for at least two minutes after the water has stood for several hours. That will most flush of the lead down the drain, they say.

Utica’s lead levels soared above the next closest city, Yonkers in Westchester County. The top 10 percent of homes tested in the city had more than 100 parts per billion of lead. In Yonkers, the top ten percent exceeded 68 ppb.

The current state standard is 50 parts per billion (ppb), but that number will soon drop to 15 ppb.

One part per billion is equal to one teaspoon in a million gallons of water.

There is no detectable amount of lead in Utica’s water as it leaves Hinkley Reservoir. The lead comes from pipes, those within homes and those that connect the home system to the main water pipes beneath the street.

There are two basic reasons why Utica’s water was high in lead:

• The area has many old homes with lead pipes that connect the house to the water main beneath the road. The Utica water district has 6,500 lead connections, a higher proportion than in New York City.

• The water coming down from the Adirondacks is corrosive, meaning it pulls lead away from the pipe and solder. Water officials say they’ll be able to add more compounds that will coat the pipes and slow the leaching after the filtration plant opens in November.

Despite the high levels found in the latest tests, a state Health Department water expert said the tests are a worst-case scenario.

“More than 99 percent of the people receive less lead than this sample indicated,” said George Stasko, a senior sanitary engineer in the state Bureau of Public Water Supply Protection.

Judy Stappenback looks closely at a glass of bottled spring water at her home on Mary Street in Whitesboro. Testing revealed a high level of lead in her water.

Expenses:
Martin’s office
Lead levels in water 4th highest in nation

Environment: Utica earns the disheartening distinction of having the nation’s fourth-highest percentage of lead in drinking water.

By TIM BLYDENBURGH
Observer-Dispatch

The Utica area has more lead in its drinking water than all but four other cities in the United States, a federal report released yesterday said.

The Environmental Protection Agency report comes two weeks after federal tests showing Utica has higher lead levels than any major city in New York.

The EPA study ranked Utica—which had lead levels tested at 108 parts per billion (ppb)—tied for fourth-highest.

Cities with nation’s highest lead levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Parts per billion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charleston, S.C.</td>
<td>311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Escambia County</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newton, Mass.</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utica N.Y.</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Framingham, Mass.</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jersey City, N.J.</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somerville, Mass.</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broward County, Fla.</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cedar Rapids, Iowa</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malden, Mass.</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UTICA WATER... the Fountain of Yechh!

WAITRESS, I'D LIKE A GLASS OF WATER...

YA WANT REGULAR OR UNLEADED?

THE MOST DEFINITIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE QUALITY OF UTICA WATER COMES FROM THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY....

STUDIES SHOW THAT LEAD IN THE DRINKING WATER CAN CAUSE BRAIN DAMAGE IN CHILDREN.

TEACHERS RESPOND...

MAYBE, THAT EXPLAINS IT...

IT'S BETTER THAN PAINT.
Crumbs Along the Mohawk/Randall Kimberly

Some ‘Sicko’ is bound to make jokes about Utica water—like...

Willie, how can you tell if someone’s from Utica?

Lead breath?

How can you find Uticans at the airport?

They set off the metal detectors!

What do Uticans look for in an anti-perspirant?

Rust-proofing!

Why did the old prospector come to Utica?

He wanted to go panning for lead.
It's Time once again to...TEST Your I.Q.!
(IRRITATED QUOTIENT)

THE TERM, "HEAVY METAL" REFERS TO...

a. A form of ear-splitting, head-banging, electric guitar-based rock music.
b. Utica Water.

THE EFFECTS OF LEAD IN THE DRINKING WATER CAN BE OBSERVED IN...

a. Emotional excitability, slurred speech, general confusion.
b. The O-D Sound-Off Column.
I predict... good news, as city water finally meets government health standards!

I also predict... bad news, when it's learned this is only because they lowered their standards.
AN INSIDE LOOK AT UTICA'S NEW... WATER FILTRATION PLANT...

WATER FROM HINCKLEY RESERVOIR TRAVELS THROUGH A COMPLEX FILTER SYSTEM...

WE GOT THE IDEA FROM A MR. COFFEE...

LET 'ER RIP!

SMALL AMOUNTS OF SANITIZING CHEMICALS MAY BE ADDED...

AND, OF COURSE, THERE ARE THE ALL-IMPORTANT SPOT CHECKS FOR WATER QUALITY...

THIS IS THE CONNECTION TO THE CITY WATER MAINS, WHERE WATER LEAVING THE PLANT IS REFERRED TO AS 'PRE-LEADED'...

HERE, SPOT... TRY THIS.
Utica water lab faces microbe mystery

Tests, research conducted to protect drinking supply

By JOHN KOHLSTRAND
Observer-Dispatch

UTICA — A group of technicians at City Hall soon may expand the world’s knowledge of a relatively new threat to drinking water that can be deadly.

The Upper Mohawk Valley Regional Water Board has added staff and invested $150,000 in new computer-assisted microscopes and other gadgets in order to test for cryptosporidium, a small, waterborne parasite that can cause death.

“It means rather than having to hire someone to do the testing, we can do it ourselves,” said Connie Schreppel, the lab’s director.

Officials hope the investment eventually will pay for itself by attracting water-testing contracts from other communities.

And with scientists still learning more about cryptosporidium and how to control it, Utica’s Water Board might play a role in that research.

Cryptosporidium, the parasite that caused the 1993 water outbreak in Milwaukee, has been identified in many areas in the United States.

When this came, it blew everybody away,” Schreppel said.

New, water systems slowly are gearing up to test for it. By July, new federal regulations are expected to require the nation’s largest 300 or so water systems to look for cryptosporidium.

“It’s a laboratory expense, but Schreppel said the Water Board paid $500 per sample when outside labs test Utica’s water.

About the lab

For more information, contact Connie Schreppel, director of the Utica water system's public health laboratory.

Schreppel took the post as the lab’s principal scientist last year. Before coming to Utica, he ran the laboratory for Erie County’s water system and has performed research for the state Department of Health projects. One proposal would have the lab research how efficient filters in removing cryptosporidium and another parasite, giardia, from water.

Funding to provide expanded services for Utica seniors

UTICA — Senior Services of Utica Inc., the City of Utica’s Social Services Administration, serving Oneida and Herkimer counties, will provide expanded services for Utica seniors.

The agency, funded by state and federal funds, provides home-delivered meals, transportation services, day care, social services and other services for elderly individuals.

Executive Director Gaylord Hunsicker said the agency serves about 1,000 people a week in Utica and 1,500 a week in Herkimer County.

Funding to provide expanded services for Utica seniors

UTICA — Senior Services of Utica Inc., the City of Utica’s Social Services Administration, serving Oneida and Herkimer counties, will provide expanded services for Utica seniors.

The agency, funded by state and federal funds, provides home-delivered meals, transportation services, day care, social services and other services for elderly individuals.

Executive Director Gaylord Hunsicker said the agency serves about 1,000 people a week in Utica and 1,500 a week in Herkimer County.

Funding to provide expanded services for Utica seniors

UTICA — Senior Services of Utica Inc., the City of Utica’s Social Services Administration, serving Oneida and Herkimer counties, will provide expanded services for Utica seniors.

The agency, funded by state and federal funds, provides home-delivered meals, transportation services, day care, social services and other services for elderly individuals.

Executive Director Gaylord Hunsicker said the agency serves about 1,000 people a week in Utica and 1,500 a week in Herkimer County.

Funding to provide expanded services for Utica seniors

UTICA — Senior Services of Utica Inc., the City of Utica’s Social Services Administration, serving Oneida and Herkimer counties, will provide expanded services for Utica seniors.

The agency, funded by state and federal funds, provides home-delivered meals, transportation services, day care, social services and other services for elderly individuals.

Executive Director Gaylord Hunsicker said the agency serves about 1,000 people a week in Utica and 1,500 a week in Herkimer County.
Herkimer DA feels vindicated by ruling

Appeals court upholds conviction

By TRACI GREGORY
Observer-Dispatch

HERKIMER — Herkimer County District Attorney Daley criticized yesterday what he described as a "travesty" in the prosecution of a case last year — said the court's latest decision justifies the way his office handled the case.

In a 31 ruling, the state Supreme Court Appellate Division, Fourth Judicial Department, unanimously affirmed a Feb. 9, 1999, judgment against a witness who had lied to the jury in a case involving floyd van Wier, a second-degree grand larceny.

The original ruling was handed down in Herkimer County Court. Daley criticized by a judge's panel in the previous ruling on the case, said the latest ruling proves Herkimer County had a valid case against Van Wier and took the appropriate action in pursuing it.

Earlier judges said it appeared Daley knew an insurance fraud prosecution against Van Wier was baseless, yet did not initially inform judges. The judges called it an apparent "serious dereliction of his ethical obligations to seek justice, not merely to convict."

But Daley said the court misinterpreted his statement. He said he had serious doubts about the right thing for New York Republicans.

"The system that is responsible for this sad situation is riddled with corruption and is an embarrassment to the state. It is a system that is unfair and is not serving the people of New York," Daley said. "The system is broken and needs to be fixed."

The system that is responsible for this sad situation is riddled with corruption and is an embarrassment to the state. It is a system that is unfair and is not serving the people of New York. The system is broken and needs to be fixed.

York Republicans were told Wednesday that Bush would prefer his supporters not appeal if McCain won a federal court challenge to open March 7 primary because he likely would lack enough petiton signatures.

Purtell, who has been mentioned as a possible Bush.

WATER BOARD PROMOTES IMPROVEMENTS

Phil Tangorra, a water quality analyst for the Upper Mohawk Valley Regional Water Board, tests a water sample for pathogenic protozoa at the lab's Utica office. The lab is taking part in an EPA-funded grant to test the water of 19 municipalities in the Northeast for the presence of common pathogenic protozoa.

Water quality better, but image still murky

By JOHN BRIGGS
Observer-Dispatch

UTICA — The Upper Mohawk Valley Regional Water Board still is fighting the old fight. Executive Director Patrick Becker said last week.

"The water is good now, but people continue to believe it's not."

Because the old reputation hangs on, Becker said, the water board has mounted a major TV and radio ad campaign "to make people aware of the progress in water quality and to get the message out that the water system is an asset to the area."

The board also wants to remind its customers that it's not a city agency anymore but an independent regional authority.

Convincing some people of improvement in water quality might take some doing. New Hartford's Ruby Riawas is a water board customer who has yet to be persuaded.

"The water isn't purified. I don't drink city water."

"The taste is not good."

"She has lived in the area for 12 years, and no matter what the water board is claiming in its advertisements, she will continue to boil the water and then filter it, she said.

"Water is the first thing for your health," she said. "We depend on pure water."

"Becker sighs at such stories.

In the old days, which continued through the 1990s, Utica water was often a symptom of a larger failure that led to Monday's crash..."
Utica water exceeds standards

Experts credit constant monitoring, filtration system for improvement

By R. PATRICK CORBETT
Observer-Dispatch

UTICA — In the early 1990s, Utica’s water was so loaded with chemicals and contaminants that the Utica Board of Water Supply had to take out paid advertisements to warn its customers.

The Upper Mohawk Valley Regional Water Board recently took out a paid ad again, but this time it was crowing about meeting all federal and state safe drinking water standards.

“We not only meet them, we beat them and we’re going to get better,” said David Fredericksen, a research scientist with the water board.

Once the butt of jokes, the water system, taken over by a regionalized agency in 1996, is the envy of the industry. The 1998 drinking water quality report stated, “The UMVRWB’s water meets all New York State and Federal standards for 1998 as a safe water.”

The key is a constantly-monitored water treatment system built around a filtration system that removes 99.9 percent of bacteria from the water.

Fredericksen said, “Utica has gone from what was identified as one of the worst water supplies in the nation to being recognized as one of the best”...

David Fredericksen
— research scientist on the Upper Mohawk Valley Regional Water Board

Joe Long’s View

I’ll drink to that!

...Now, Utica’s water is among the best in the country.

...Back in the early ‘90s, Floyd washed his car with Utica’s contaminated water.
And the battle continues!!!