

How Drugs Enter Higgins Lake

Dear HLPOA Member,

Drugs which are taken by any route, whether it be orally, rectally, intravenously, by inhalation or injection, are eventually removed from the body. The path of elimination is largely by the kidneys with the drug being excreted in the urine.

The recent study of six water samples taken from Higgins Lake and tested by Dr. Hui Li of Michigan State University, showed the presence of pharmaceuticals in Higgins Lake. Since Higgins Lake is fed primarily by springs from groundwater, the presence of these chemicals proves the existence of septic field connections to groundwater in the watershed.

Since this information was sent to the membership, comments have been received by HLPOA that the way to stop pharmaceuticals from getting into Higgins Lake is to stop people from flushing unused medication down their toilet. Whether a medication is taken orally or flushed down a toilet, the drug is still going into the septic system, and eventually into the groundwater entering the lake.

The only way to prevent this is to not have a source of flushed water from a toilet entering the lake. This is another reason a lake-wide sewer system is essential for Higgins Lake. One other unpleasant thought is if pharmaceuticals are in the groundwater, are they also in the water that your well is providing for your drinking water?

Wayne Brooks
Registered Pharmacist
HLPOA Board Member