

EPA well water study finds little effect from courses

At least half of the nation's drinking water wells contain detectable amounts of nitrate but few exceed health limits.

That's the conclusion of a five-year national survey of pesticides in drinking water wells by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The survey is said to be the first and perhaps the most extensive monitoring effort ever to evaluate the presence of pesticides, pesticide degradates and nitrate in U.S. drinking water wells.

Only a small percentage of concentrations are higher than EPA's regulatory and health-based limits for drinking water — about 1 percent of community water system (CWS) wells and about 2.4 percent of rural domestic wells.

Survey results indicate that about 52.1 percent of the 94,600 community water system wells in the U.S. contain nitrate, about 10.4 percent contain one or more pesticides, and about 7.1 percent may contain both.

Of the approximately 10.5 mil-

lion rural domestic wells, EPA estimates that about 57 percent contain nitrate, 4.2 percent contain one or more pesticides, and about 3.2 percent contain both.

Only 0.6 percent of approximately 60,900 rural domestic wells contain at least one pesticide over a maximum contaminant level (MCL) or lifetime health advisory level (HAL). None of the detections of pesticides or pesticide degradates for CWS wells were above the MCL/HAL.

The pesticides detected most

frequently were DCPA acid metabolites and atrazine. DCPA acid metabolites are degradates of DCPA, used primarily as a weed killer on lawns, turf and golf courses, and also on a variety of fruits and vegetables.

Concentrations detected usually were well below levels of health concerns.

Presence of a golf course within a half-mile of either community water system or rural domestic wells reflected negligible effect.

A Phase II report, to be released

this year, will discuss EPA's assessment of the causes and factors associated with the occurrence of pesticides and nitrate in drinking water wells.

Fertilizer spokesmen were among industry forces hailing most segments of the report.

Said Gary D. Myers, president of The Fertilizer Institute, "This should reassure Americans — particularly those in rural America — that their drinking water is safe.

"That may come as a surprise to some environmental groups that

have been seeking to force farmers to change their production methods to protect groundwater. Our farmers have managed fertilizer well.

"A nitrate is a nitrate, regardless of source," added Myers. "This data tells us nothing about the source of nitrates. Many states have conducted nitrate studies that indicate that nitrate occurrence above a natural background level usually can be traced to a poorly-constructed well or other point sources."

Pete Dye's first course in Hawaii gets go-ahead

HONOLULU, Hawaii — After years of controversy and delay, construction of the 36-hole golf course here — the first Pete Dye-designed layout in Hawaii — is moving right along.

The 1,096-acre parcel was sold in 1986 to Yasuo Yasuda, a Japanese vending machine executive. Yasuda formed Y.Y. Valley Corp., parent company for the \$50-million golf project.

Only 450 acres will be used for golf. The rest will be conservation land.

The first 18 holes — nine of each of the eventual Makai and Mauka courses — are expected to be completed late this year.

Said Dye: "The challenge is to retain the natural vegetation and terrain while enhancing and preserving the environment for the future."

Airport property course proposed in Marion, Ill.

MARION, Ill. — Former professional golfer Roy Glenn of Carterville proposes to build an 18-hole golf course on airport property at Marion.

He has submitted his plan, the first phase of a \$1.2-million project, to the Williamson County Regional Airport Authority.

Glenn described his plans for "The Knolls" golf course as similar to desert golf courses, since the proposed site is in the mine spoils area north of the National Guard armory site and east of the main north-south runway.

Second phase of the project would be an additional nine-hole executive course.



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