



LOCAL NEWS

Water report leaves bad taste in Phoenix's mouth

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By Kim Kapilovich / 3TV producer

On Monday, a new report was released about the Valley's water and it's reportedly leaving a bad taste in the mouth of some city officials.

The study said out of 100 cities, Phoenix came in last.

The report is in Men's Health magazine and it starts by stating the water coming out of your tap is safe, but the water in the other 99 cities is cleaner.

"I get accused of drinking this because I'm with the water department, but the truth is I've been carrying around tap water for about 25 years and that's what this is. This is Phoenix tap water," said Ken Kroski with the Phoenix Water Department.

Kroski said he knows firsthand all of the testing that's done on the water. He said the water quality is much better than what's reported in Men's Health magazine.

"The EPA's computer is listing thousands of violations that never occurred and this is something that the city and state are working on with the EPA," he said.

He said it comes down to a computer glitch misinterpreting the data.

"We report to the county, the county reports to the state and the state reports to the EPA," he said. "My understanding is that the EPA's computer and the state's computer don't talk the same computer language."

Phoenix residents 3TV talked to about the report said they're not concerned with the quality, but some said they would rather drink or do drink bottled water.

3TV mentioned this to Kroski, who said he's working on it.

"Every year in the newspaper and through the water bill, we send out a water quality report, otherwise known as a consumer confidence report, and that lists where our water comes from, how we test it (and) the types of ingredients we found in it," he said.

A representative from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality said there are some data issues, but it's not enough to throw out the entire report.