

Contact: Dave Loveday  
Water Quality Association  
*International Headquarters & Laboratory*  
4151 Naperville Road, Lisle, Illinois 60532-3696 USA  
Email: dloveday@wqa.org  
Telephone: 630 505 0160  
Faxsimilie: 630 505 9637



## WQA PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — NOVEMBER 18, 2010

### **Final barrier devices can treat contamination in Houston homes**

Investigative report shows presence of uranium, radium

**Lisle, Illinois USA** —An investigative report that uranium and radium may be present in Houston drinking water provides more reason for residents to consider using “final barrier” technology in their homes, according to the Water Quality Association.

According a news report by the KHOU I-Team, “small amounts of radioactive elements have contaminated Houston’s water supply going back for as many years as the city keeps records on hand, which is presently for tests performed as far back as 1996. The problem appears to be isolated to the city’s groundwater wells, which provide more than 70 million gallons a day of drinking water for Houston.”

“This report is one more piece of evidence to consumers that in-home technology should be utilized as a final barrier to contamination,” said Peter J. Censky, executive director of WQA.

Final barrier technology refers to devices and systems installed at the point of water use.

Radium reduction can be achieved with cation exchange softening, reverse osmosis, and distillation. Uranium reduction is achievable through strong base anion exchange, reverse osmosis, and distillation.

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WQA's Gold Seal product certification offers a scientific method for consumers to ensure the effectiveness of the devices they purchase. The program has certified devices for cation exchange softening and reverse osmosis.

Product testing follows guidelines developed by ANSI/NSF, the most respected standards-development agency in the nation. Each technology is tested according to different standards. Those interested should visit [wqa.org](http://wqa.org) and click on Gold Seal.

Consumers are also encouraged to use certified professionals for their treatment needs. Dedicated to upholding high standards of performance, certified professionals go through a series of classes and specialized training and pledge to abide by a strict code of ethics. Local certified professionals can be found at [wqa.org](http://wqa.org), on the "Find A Water Professional" button.

Final barrier technology provides an effective and cost-efficient way to treat water, Censky said. He noted that only about 1% of centrally treated water is consumed by people; to treat the other 99 percent to final barrier standards is expensive.

At the same time science and technology is constantly discovering more potential contaminants in water supplies – such as pharmaceuticals and endocrine disrupters – including some in water that has been centrally treated. Final barrier treatment can stop many elements that come into the home, even after water has been centrally treated.

More information can be found at [wqa.org](http://wqa.org), or from the Texas Water Quality Association, at [twqa.org](http://twqa.org).

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