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When there's more to the story



**Aqua Shock:
Water in Crisis**

by
Susan J. Marks
Paperback
Revised/Updated
ISBN:
9780470918067
April 2011

Available
wherever books
are sold.

**For Review
Copies/Author
Interviews,
Contact:**

Laura Walsh
201-748-8660
lwalsh@wiley.com

or

Susan J. Marks
303-932-6372
sjmarksco@aol.com

AQUA SHOCK

Water in Crisis

By Susan J. Marks

*“...with **Aqua Shock**, Susan J. Marks has delivered what is needed—a highly readable and tremendously informative account of what she quite rightly calls America’s water crisis.”*

—Ronald F. Poltak

Winner EPA Lifetime Achievement Award (2006)
Executive Director of the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission

*“Water is truly the challenge of the twenty-first century—our century—and we have to start having a serious mainstream conversation about the legacy we are leaving our children and grandchildren. In **Aqua Shock**, Susan Marks does a great job of getting that conversation started.”*

— Alexandra Cousteau, Explorer, Filmmaker,
and Water Advocate, www.AlexandraCousteau.org

Water, an essential staple of our daily existence, is the golden commodity of the twenty-first century. According to award-winning journalist Susan J. Marks, “Once plentiful and pure, today water is a finite resource like oil or gold, and its price is rising, whether you price it by the bottle, bath or billions of gallons.”

In the newest version of **AQUA SHOCK: Water in Crisis** (Bloomberg Press/an imprint of John Wiley, April 2011/ISBN: 978-0-470-91806-7), Susan J. Marks sounds the alarm for communities from coast to coast warning that water is a shrinking resource right in our own backyards. America’s water supply is threatened by many factors including contaminants, overdevelopment, climate change, water overuse, rising population, antiquated infrastructure and outdated water treatment plants. This invaluable guide helps readers navigate the complex world of water from the governmental agencies to many regional and state water issues.

AQUA SHOCK is filled with real-life conflicts that help to raise awareness of a water crisis facing not only Western desert states but across the country. Examples of disputes over this precious resource or “liquid gold” include the Chattahoochee River Dispute between Georgia, Florida and Alabama and the Colorado River Basin battle between several southwestern states. Some cities like Boston, Charlotte, and Chicago have problems with groundwater infiltration losses caused by the many paved, impervious surfaces. Natural pollutants like arsenic are issues in groundwater wells existing in Maine and New Hampshire.

Marks gets to the bottom of the issues by interviewing the water experts and uncovering the research from academics, scientists, think tanks, governmental agencies, and the ‘water gods’ – groups or agencies that control water rights. **AQUA SHOCK** is an in-depth, clear look at the hard facts, figures and realities presented in the objective style of a seasoned journalist. A few of the water facts and realities are:

- The Earth is 70 percent water, but less than 1 percent is the fresh water humans need to survive – not much to meet the needs of the world’s 6.7 billion people.

- The U.S. uses a total of 410 billion gallons of water a year with energy production as the largest consumer of water amounting for nearly half that.
- Antiquated infrastructure in major cities threatens the safety and supply of drinking water. Many of the pipes were made with lead and pose serious health risks. More than half the “wastewater” that runs off and away in many cities is actually potable water that drains or leaks from old pipes. The cost of fixing the America’s drinking water infrastructure will cost hundreds of billions of dollars.
- Several reports expose contaminants in water. An Associated Press investigation found pharmaceuticals like sex hormones, antibiotics and mood stabilizers in the drinking water supplies of 46 million Americans. The Natural Resources Defense Council study of nineteen U.S. cities found unwanted extras in drinking water like rocket fuel, germs and lead.

The complicated world of how water is governed, the laws, rights and politics are thoroughly explained in **AQUA SHOCK**. The book includes a complete glossary and references to websites for numerous topics including the EPA’s source water protection site that allows you to check the safety of your own drinking water (www.epa.gov/safewater). Also, Marks offers tips on how to lessen groundwater contamination and gives examples from green initiatives started in various cities.

AQUA SHOCK is a call to action for Americans from all walks of life – average citizens, farmers, business owners, corporations, environmental organizations and government agencies. Whether your concerns are for your own safety or the desire to capitalize on water, the debate over water being a public right or a private entity continues. The water banks and investors remain interested in water-related companies and industries because shortage combined with demand translates into profits.

Susan Marks dispels the myth that clean potable water will always be there for the taking and presents a case for awareness and action. As for solutions, some are attainable—water conservation, increased efficiency, cleanup, and education—while others are more involved. Marks believes, “The solutions aren’t instantaneous, and many aren’t easy. The ideas and approaches are endless, and often contradictory and controversial.” In the end, **AQUA SHOCK** helps the average American get educated about the issues so they can begin a dialogue about saving our nation's supply of the last golden resource, water.

Aqua Shock: Water in Crisis

Susan J. Marks

Bloomberg Press

Revised and Updated/April 2011

978-0-470-91806-7

Aqua Shock: The Water Crisis in America

October 2009/978-1-57660-332-1/\$24.95

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Specializing in consumer issues, Susan J. Marks is an award-winning journalist with more than thirty years experience. As a freelancer, she has written or collaborated on more than a dozen information, consumer, and self-help books, and has written for newspapers, magazines, and organizations across the country. She's helped dozens of people, organizations, governments, and agencies all over the world tell their stories.

Based in water-conscious Denver, Marks knows firsthand about water rights, restrictions, shortages, and their repercussions. She has worked closely with Colorado ranchers and developers bent on expansion and curtailed by water rights and replenishment issues. She's also watched parched underbrush burn unchecked in water-starved areas of Colorado and Florida, and battled out-of-control brush fires on the other side of the world.

Prior to full-time freelancing, she spent more than a dozen years at the *Denver Post*, primarily as Sunday business editor and special projects editor/business. She has also written for *BusinessWeek*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Forbes*, *Woman's World* and more. Her work has received awards and recognition from local, regional, and national professional industry organizations including Gannett, the Colorado Press Association and the Society of American Business Editors and Writers.

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About the
author
Susan J.
Marks