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Occurrence, Fate and Environmental Risk Assessment of the Organic Microcontaminants in Groundwater

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Message from the Guest Editor

Emerging contaminants in the water environment have been of growing concern in recent years. The most popular substances are persistent organic pollutants (POPs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), pesticides, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics, residues of which occur in both surface water and groundwater. Among the main sources of these substances are insufficient sewage treatment and landfill leachates. In spite of low concentrations of PPCPs in water samples, these compounds constitute a threat to living organisms due to their potential for bioaccumulation. Some of the microcontaminants are also included in the group of endocrine-disrupting chemicals that affect the function of the hormonal system. In this regard, pharmaceuticals and personal care products are hazardous for human health since their residues are occasionally detected in drinking water. Due to the fact that compounds of this type may affect groundwater to a varying degree, it is advisable to assess the risk of groundwater using various available methods, both field and modeling.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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