

Interactive comment on “The Dutch secret: safe drinking water without chlorine in the Netherlands” by P. W. M. H. Smeets et al.

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I think it is a very interesting paper with sufficient empirical evidence on how effective drinking water quality is managed by the Dutch. The authors may consider the following:

- 1) The fact that the Dutch do not generally use chlorine for final disinfection is not really a secret any longer – for many years. Should the title then state the obvious?
- 2) It would be very useful to know not only the relative change, but also the absolute values of certain key water quality parameters reported in the text and the figures (figures 6 and 7) in order to explain the variation in removal effectiveness of some of the treatment process.

3) In order for other countries to learn from the Dutch experience the general water quality data will also be useful and enable readers to identify key similarities and differences (water temperature, pH, alkalinity, DOC concentration, UV254 absorbance, DOC fractionation, etc.)

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