

Subject: Naturally occurring high fluorides in drinking water supplies

Purpose: To provide a consistent policy in dealing with community water supplies that exceed the established fluoride MCL of 2 ppm.

GUIDELINES

I. New Systems

- 1. Systems whose proposed source(s) exceed(s) 2.5 mg/l but are less than 5 mg/l of fluoride shall be required to;
  - a. Notify system users on a yearly basis; and,
  - b. Monitor for fluoride at each source on a quarterly basis.
- 2. A system will not be approved when the fluoride level at the source(s) is above 5 mg/l unless the level of fluoride can be reduced to less than 5 mg/l and as close to the optimum as possible for all system users by one of the following methods:
  - a. Blending the high fluoride source with an existing low fluoride water supply. This option would be available where wells pump directly to a storage reservoir and have no connections directly off the line.
  - b. Redirect high fluoride source(s) to an industrial or irrigation user and shut down high level wells during periods of low demand when possible.

II. Existing Systems

Existing drinking water sources with high fluoride may be approached on an individual basis. Unlike new systems in which specific levels can be enforced by blending or non-approval, an existing system's capability to blend its source may be limited. Abandoning an existing source could prove to be a hardship that many communities may be unwilling to bear. Furthermore, in most communities tri-annual inorganic sampling makes it difficult to fully assess the problem.

Therefore, in order to address the problem of high fluoride in existing communities and evaluate trends that may be occurring within the system, the following fluoride monitoring schedule is proposed:

III. Fluoride Concentration at Source

1. 2.5 - 5.0 ppm:
  - a. Quarterly fluoride monitoring of the high source(s) with the analysis performed by State certified lab.
  - b. Yearly public notification of system users.
2. 5.0 ppm or greater:
  - a. Monthly monitoring of the high fluoride source(s) with the analysis performed by a State certified lab.
  - b. Routine fluoride sampling within the distribution system with the analysis performed by the purveyor.
  - c. Quarterly public notification of the system users by the purveyors.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

*Bill Tardif*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*3/26/87*