

Drinking Water Fluoridation: Status Report

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Fluoridation of Albuquerque's Drinking Water

- Early 1970's: City of Albuquerque begins fluoridation of municipal water supply
- 2005: Water Authority continues the practice after assuming control of the drinking water system
- Target level 0.9 to 1.2 parts per million (ppm)

2006 National Academies of Science Assessment

- Undertaken at request of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Reviewed new data on fluoride
- Resulted in recommendation that EPA update health and exposure assessments to take into account:
 - bone and dental effects; and
 - consideration of all sources of fluoride.

January 2011 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Proposal

- Proposed new recommended *optimal* fluoride level 0.7 ppm
- Reduced from 0.7-1.2 ppm
- Final optimal level recommendation expected spring of 2011
- Water Authority stopped adding supplemental fluoride in March 2011 pending final recommendation
- Final recommendation still pending

EPA Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)

- Primary MCL 4.0 ppm
- Secondary MCL 2.0 ppm

Current Drinking Water Fluoride Concentration in Water Authority Service Area

Naturally occurring fluoride levels

- Production wells: average 0.7 ppm
- Surface Water Treatment Plant (San Juan-Chama project): averages 0.4 ppm

Blended water supply

- Quarterly distribution system monitoring:
 - 2012 average 0.5 ppm
 - 2013 average 0.4 ppm

Proposal Before the Water Authority Board

- Add supplemental fluoride to bring entire service area to CDC optimal 0.7 ppm level
- For maximum operational efficiency, fluoride would be added at a central location: Surface Water Treatment Plant (San Juan-Chama project)
- Estimated \$400,000 infrastructure cost (one-time cost)
- Estimated \$100,000 yearly Operations & Maintenance costs