Clean Water Initiative

Campaign for Liberty™

Rutherford County, TN

Tennesseans Against Water Fluoridation

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The Organizations

The Campaign for Liberty Rutherford County, Tennessee (CFLRCT) is a local, non-profit, grass-roots organization whose mission includes identifying issues of concern for residents and promoting common sense, liberty-founded solutions. Currently CFLRCT has over three hundred (300) members in Rutherford County. Actively, these members participate in all stages of governance and society promoting ideals of liberty and constitutional governance.

Campaign for Liberty Rutherford County

The Tennesseans Against Water Fluoridation (TAWF) group is organized specifically to identify water utility districts in the State of Tennessee whose process of water treatment includes the addition of fluoridic compounds. Once identified, the members earnestly engage residents in the district to educate and organize them to take seminal political and public relation initiative. TAWF also has over three hundred (300) registered members throughout the state who have taken seminal steps to research, publish, and organize community and state initiatives.

Tennesseans Against Water Fluoridation

The Clean Water Initiative

Members of both organizations have dedicated countless hours researching the systems and processes currently used in water treatment facilities in Rutherford County. These members have also organized numerous initiatives to educate residents on both sides of the fluoridation ideological debate. As time, research, resources, and initiatives amass it is becoming clear that residents are becoming aware that current water utility district policy should shift away from adding fluoridic compounds to the drinking water supply. Issue specialist residents envision a policy shift occuring that would not only benefit the customers (residents), but would also benefit the utility districts. In this short summary review, the groups intend to show the current practices, historical research topics and conclusions, the individual local research from Rutherford County, TN, and the conclusion of local issue specialists.

The Current State of Fluoridation

One of the most fascinating aspects of water fluoridation is that residents don't typically understand the process or its constituent parts, yet trust quasi-governmental utility companies to fully examine and report such procedures to them. Many of the employees at utility companies also do not understand the science or research of fluoridic compounds mainly because, technically, it isn't and shouldn't be included in the scope of their employ. CFLRCT and TAWF hope to not only change the policy of the utility companies to manage operations outside of their scope, but also educate both the employees of the utility districts and the residents as to why the policy should change.

To our current knowledge, there is no federal, state, or local laws or ordinances which mandate the addition of fluoridic compounds to the drinking water supply. There is ample evidence to suggest why this is the case and we will touch on some of these reasons shortly.

Currently there are two water & sewer service consortiums that operate within Rutherford County, TN. Those districts are Consolidated Utility District (CUD) and the City of Murfreesboro via the Stones River Water Treatment facility. Both of these utility districts currently add a compound known as Fluorosilicic Acid to the drinking water supply as it leaves the facilities.

The Research

Proponents of drinking water fluoridation state that fluoridic compounds added to the water supply decrease the prevalence of cavity formation in teeth. While fluoride ion reacting with human saliva *might* have such a result on teeth and cavities, it would be a stretch to assume that ingesting a hazardous acid (not fluoride ion) would not cause harmful side-effects to other parts of the body. To speak to the logical fallacy of drinking a product to effect teeth and cavities, in August 2009, *The Tennessean* reported that "health professionals and experts in pediatric dentistry are seeing an increase in the number of children with tooth decay and cavities [1]."

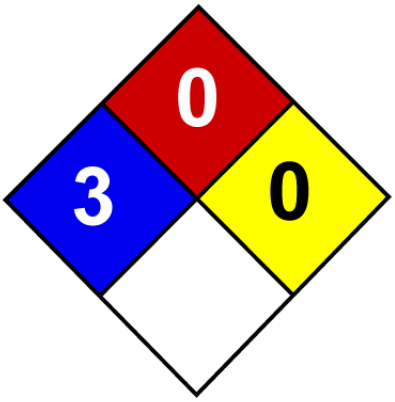
Furthermore, once ingested, fluoride plays no role in preventing tooth decay, yet remains in the body [2]. To be clear, "fluoridation is the addition to drinking water of chemicals based on the element fluoride, purpotedly to protect growing teeth in children. The chemicals used to fluoridate drinking water, silicofluorides, are a toxic waste product from the phosphate fertilizer industry. They are unprocessed hazardous waste containing a whole host of toxic substances – including arsenic, mercury, and lead – not found in pharmaceutical grade fluoride [2]."

It would not be considered dangerous to have a licensed professional topically apply fluoride to the teeth in an effort to prevent cavities. There are medical grades of fluoride ion that when used topically are quite effective at accomplishing this goal. This type of fluoride ion compound is commonly found in over-the-counter toothpastes sold in retail grocery stores. On a side note, even the medical pure grade of fluoride ion is toxic when ingested and a single teaspoon of fluoride is enough to kill a human being [2]. The toxicological condition where fluoride accumulates in the body and begins to cause detrimental symptoms is known as fluorosis.

Ingestion of any material or compound may be harmful and the effect may be different for everyone. For instance, children are placed at a greater risk of developing dental fluorosis, with 41% of adolescents aged 12-15 having developed the condition [3]. As is expected, the Centers for Disease Control notes an increase in the prevalence of dental fluorosis as water fluoridation programs expand [3].

There are many noticeable medical patterns and symptoms that can be linked to ingredients in the water supply regionally. For instance, "a U.S. database of drinking water systems was used to identify index counties with water systems reporting fluoride levels of at least 3 ppm. These and adjacent counties were grouped in 30 regions spread over 9 states… Most regions showed an association of decreasing total fertility rate with increasing fluoride levels" [4]. Another analysis from Harvard University found that water fluoridation is "strongly" linked to cognitive delays in children across the world [5].

Aside from analytical and professional research on the topic, solid information can be gathered from reference material such as the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) of Fluorosilic Acid.



The Materials Safety Data Sheet for "fluorosilicic acid" states Hazards Identification as "Hazardous in case of skin contact (pemeator). Liquid or spray mist may produce tissue damage particularly on mucous membranes of eyes, mouth and respiratory tract. Skin contact may produce burns. Inhalation of the spray mist may produce severe irritation of respiratory tract, characterized by coughing, choking, or shortness of breath. Inflammation of the eye is characterized by redness, watering, and itching. Skin inflammation is characterized by itching, scaling, reddening, or, occasionally, blistering. *Potential chronic health effects*: Extremely hazardous in case of skin contact (corrosive, irritant), of eye contact (irritant), of ingestion, of inhalation. Hazardous in case of skin contact (permeator). Repeated or prolonged exposure to the substance can produce target organs damage… Repeated or prolonged exposure to spray mist may produce respiratory tract irritation leading to frequent attacks of bronchial infection."

Fluoridation in Rutherford County, TN

Rutherford County residents enjoy a very clean, naturally beautiful environment for enjoying living life and raising families. There are multiple threats to this lifestyle, however, and the addition of fluorosilicic acid to the drinking water supply is one of them. It takes time and resources to filter the hazardous materials that are purposefully added to the water supply as it exits the treatment facilities. To properly filter dissolved solids

from the household tap requires specialized equipment, plumbing efforts, and a sufficient motivation to become educated on all of the above. Rutherford County residents wished to independently measure through scientific testing, the amount of fluoride present in water samples across the County. The results were tabulated and reviewed to understand their implications.

The Consolidated Utility District mailed all water customers a water quality report with some supplemental information regarding fluoride, the table provided is depicted below.

WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE

Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range of Detection	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Typical Source of Contaminant
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium (ppb)	2,000	N/A	14	N/A	No	02/09/12	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion from natural deposits
Copper (ppb)	AL=1,300	1,300	87.2[3]	N/A	No	06/24/11	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride (ppb)	4,000	4,000	730	600 – 1,060	No	2012	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead (ppb)	AL=15	0	ND[3]	N/A	No	06/24/11	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Our fluoride content test was established to prove the above standards and practices of the utility districts were, in fact, accurate. We were surprised to find out that the average of all samples collected measured above the level reported in the above table. Suffice it to say, by the time the water arrives at Rutherford County residents' tap, the amount of fluoride present, as measured and reported by our testing, is expected to be higher than 730 ppb— it is likely close to *double* that amount! Unfortunately, that could indicate that the other toxic chemicals that are also constituents in the mixture of the supplied source of fluorosilicic acid could be higher than the reported amount. We do not wish to go into the scientific details of our study in this particular publication as it would be lengthy and cumbersome to match our efforts on this issue. Further, we do not, at this time, have an explanation from the utility districts for our findings, but we do have a solution.

The Solution

As stated earlier in this brief review, we have organized and educated many residents and utility district employees on the hard science and performed our own independent research to overcome the status quo of taxing the public to afford adding a toxic byproduct chemical into the water supply before it is expected to be consumed by residents. The solution for both the residents and the utility districts is quite simple and would alleviate financial burdens on the districts and the residents simultaneously. Currently, the City of Murfreesboro spends more than $40,000 a year on fluorosilicic acid alone. This cost is not the total of equipment or manpower required to get the chemical into the water supply effectively, but rather just the cost of the raw byproduct to be purchased from Dycho Chemicals. The Consolidated Utility District is expected to bear a similarly substantial burden, but the fianancial research on this district is yet to be compiled or finalized. Join the efforts of Campaign for Liberty Rutherford County and Tennesseans Against Water Fluoridation today!

Publicly call for your utility district to cease the addition of fluoridic compounds in the water supply.

References

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