



CITY & BOROUGH OF JUNEAU
City & Borough Manager's Office
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December 27, 2006

Dear City Water Users,

The City and Borough of Juneau Assembly recently directed the city manager to stop adding fluoride to Juneau's drinking water. Beginning January 15, 2007, the city will no longer be adding fluoride to our water. Although fluoride will no longer be added as of that date, depending on where you live in relation to the variety of reservoirs located throughout the Borough, fluoride will remain in your water for between a few days to possibly as long as several months after that. If you have questions regarding where your home sits in the city's water distribution system, please call the Water Utility Division at 780-6888.

Over two years ago, the Assembly appointed a six-member Fluoride Study Commission and charged them with several tasks: researching and evaluating the scientific literature regarding the use of fluoride in municipal drinking water; performing a cost/benefit and risk analysis regarding the use of fluoride in municipal drinking water; and finally, making recommendations regarding the use of fluoride in the city's drinking water.

After two years of work, the Commission issued its final report in July 2006 and was split in its recommendations. Three members supported continued fluoridation, believing it to be safe and effective in helping to prevent tooth decay; two members recommended that fluoridation be discontinued, believing it to be potentially unsafe and of doubtful efficacy in fighting tooth decay; and one member recommended that fluoridation be discontinued, believing that the evidence did not show fluoridation to be safe and effective with sufficient certainty.

In addition to reviewing the Commission's report and receiving written comments on the issue from dozens of residents, the Assembly listened to extensive public testimony on fluoridation at its November 20th meeting. Then, after debating the issue at that meeting and again on December 11th, the Assembly—attempting to balance uncertain benefits and risks—voted to cease fluoridation.

Extensive information on the issue of fluoridation—including the full report of the Fluoride Study Commission—is available on the City's website at www.juneau.org.

As a courtesy to our water customers looking for succinct information from dental professionals regarding fluoride, the reverse side of this letter contains fluoride information, provided by the Local American Dental Association Chapter - Juneau Dental Society. If you have additional questions about fluoride and tooth decay, please contact your dentist.

Sincerely,

Rod Swope
City Manager