

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

Public Health Service

Health Resources Administration

Refer: PPB-62  
October 1973

Nationwide Fluoridation Activities

Frequent inquiries are received concerning the status of fluoridation, including ongoing activities, in specific communities and States. This information has been useful in stimulating and supporting community action and refuting allegations of opponents.

The attached compilation of some of the more relevant current activities affecting the implementation of fluoridation has been prepared to meet your expressed needs.

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## NATIONWIDE FLUORIDATION ROUNDUP

October 1973

Alabama: Bills to require fluoridation of public water supplies in municipalities of 2,000 or more have been introduced in both houses of the Alabama legislature.

Arizona: Tempe has become the second city in Arizona to decide to fluoridate its water supply. Bisbee was first in 1972.

California: The Mayor of Burbank has named a special committee to study possible effects of fluoridating Burbank's water supply.

Fountain Valley has started to implement fluoridation after voter approval.

A Superior Court judge ruled that no environmental impact study is necessary before implementing fluoridation in Marin County. Opponents of fluoridation have appealed the ruling. Marin County is expected to be fluoridated by December 1. Delay from the expected September 1 implementation date has been caused by equipment delivery slow-ups.

Delaware: Two bills which would change the Delaware fluoridation law have been passed by the House and sent to the Senate.

One would require that a binding referendum be held within 60 days in any community before fluoridation could be implemented and that the referendum decision would be effective for a 3-year period. The bill would be retro-active from the time passed and thus eliminate the necessity for communities which had voted against fluoridation during the preceding 3 years from holding another immediate referendum. Fluoridated communities would be exempted from further referenda action.

The other bill would allow the Division of Public Health to exempt a community from complying with the State law "for good reason," such as tight finances.

Florida: Committees in both Houses have approved a bill calling for the adjustment of the fluoride content of Florida water supplies.

Pembroke Pines voted 2,742 to 1,041 in favor of fluoridation but the council did not abide by the vote. Reasons given were the cost and that it did not want to force fluoridation "down people's throats." Pembroke Pines has been providing

free fluoride pills but few of the residents have gone through the red tape to get them.

Georgia: The State is paying for the cost of equipment and first 6-months supply of fluoride for Columbus which should be implementing fluoridation this year.

Insufficient names were obtained by opponents of fluoridation in Macon to place it on the September 19 ballot. The Mayor has promised a vote on fluoridation, and no cut-off date is being applied to the circulation of the petition.

The platform adopted by the Georgia State American Party opposes fluoridation.

Hawaii: Hearings were held on two fluoridation bills--one to provide statewide fluoridation and one to prohibit it. Neither bill came out of committee.

Indiana: With over 80 percent of the population on community water supplies now having access to fluoridated water, Indiana is implementing school fluoridation programs in communities where no community water supplies exist.

Kentucky: Here's what concerted cooperation can do: Green River Valley Water District agreed to provide the fluorides and train its personnel in feeding the fluoride into the system if the feeder could be purchased. The State Health Department, the local health department, and various civic and governmental organizations pooled financial contributions to make fluoridation a reality.

Since 1966 the Kentucky State Board of Health, under its legal authority, has required all cities of 4th class or larger (population of 3,000 and over) to fluoridate. Recent compliance by Covington and others currently completing plans should provide nearly 90 percent of Kentucky's population on public water supplies with fluoridation.

Louisiana: By an 8-3 vote the Sewerage and Water Board approved fluoridation for New Orleans.

The Board of Commissioners of the Cameron Waterworks has announced plans for fluoridation indicating it feels it can provide this extra service to customers at no increase in rates or taxes.

Maine: A bill proposing statewide fluoridation in Maine, one of three States which currently require a referendum, was defeated 17-13 in the Senate and 85-30 in the House.

Massachusetts: Opponents of fluoridation will be circulating a petition for a statewide referendum to obtain a constitutional amendment to prohibit chemical additives (such as fluorides) to public water supplies.

North Andover won a "resounding" victory at the polls and the annual town meeting approved \$15,000 for fluoridation. Anti-fluoridationists petitioned for a special town meeting which was subsequently held, but opponents were unsuccessful in attempts to prohibit fluoridation or stop the expenditure of funds.

The Metropolitan District Commission has presented a request to the Secretary of Administration and Finance for an appropriation of \$100,000 to fund the drafting of plans and specifications to fluoridate the M.D.C. Water District which supplies Boston and some 30 other communities.

Minnesota: The constitutionality of the Minnesota fluoridation law has been upheld in a court case in Brainerd. The court further indicated that opponents did not prove that fluoridation was detrimental to the environment.

Michigan: City councils in a number of small communities took action prior to the deadline specified in the Michigan fluoridation law to exempt their communities from immediately implementing fluoridation. Fluoridation can be initiated in the future by further action of the council or the people.

New Jersey: The legislative study committee recommended that a statewide fluoridation law be enacted. Opponents of fluoridation have organized under the title "New Jersey Council Opposing Forced Fluoridation" (COFF) and have retained a public relations firm to conduct a public education campaign to prevent the State from ordering fluoridation.

Phillipsburg, where the City council approved fluoridation, is considering court action against a private water company which subsequently has refused to comply with the council's request.

The Jersey City Council has voted to fluoridate.

North Carolina: The 1973 General Assembly passed a "Preventive Dentistry Bill" providing a substantial appropriation that will permit "expansion of the rural school water program and the preventive dental health education program in schools and communities." The funds will cover the employment of two technical persons to install and maintain school water fluoridators.

Ohio: Opponents of fluoridation in Indian Hill, which has been fluoridating since 1961, have collected enough signatures to require a November vote on its continuation.

The Appalachian Regional Commission is providing funds for fluoridation equipment and intensive child health care projects for several southern Ohio counties. Top priority will be given to communities with populations between 2,000 and 5,000.

Cincinnati, following a ruling by a Common Pleas Court judge that the 1969 State fluoridation law violated the Ohio Constitution, had not fluoridated its water supply. The council, utilizing its authority under charter, recently voted to fluoridate. Opponents sought and obtained the return of a previously filed petition for a vote, refiled it, and had the question placed on the November ballot. A citizen complained that the water was not fluoridated. Ohio Environmental Protection Agency officials held a hearing and ordered Cincinnati to comply with the law. The city has appealed the ruling. Cincinnati now appears slated for both Court action concerning applicability of the State law and a November vote.

Oregon: The Oregon House voted to refer the fluoride legislation back to committee.

Pennsylvania: In Allentown, where much controversy has surrounded fluoridation, a mock council session held as part of Student Government Day passed a resolution calling for fluoridation of the city's water supply.

The Pennsylvania statewide fluoridation bill, was voted down a second time, 100-87, in the House.

Texas: Houston, which is partially supplied by naturally optimally fluoridated water, appropriated funds to adjust the fluoride content to optimum level in the remainder of its water system.

Tyler voters approved fluoridation, 2,265 to 1,526 in March, yet almost lost it when a councilman, who indicated he was opposed to fluoridation, attempted to keep the council from advertising for bids for fluoridation equipment.

Washington: Opponents of fluoridation gathered enough signatures to have the continuation of fluoridation of Seattle's water

voted on again in November. Seattle after a successful referendum has been fluoridated for 3 years. Voters will be faced with a "backward-worded ballot" this time around.

Opponents had also sought an initiative requiring the city to supply free fluoride tablets, but did not collect enough signatures to place the question on the ballot.