



DATE: June 18, 2015

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: Keith Grellner, Chair

SUBJECT: BRIEFING ON NEW HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES RECOMMENDATION FOR DRINKING WATER FLUORIDATION

Background and Summary:

RCW 43.20.050(2) authorizes the State Board of Health (Board) to adopt rules regulating drinking water systems. Water systems that choose to add fluoride under RCW 57.08.012 must maintain fluoride levels consistent with WAC 246-290-460, Fluoridation of drinking water. This Board rule specifies a fluoride range intended to prevent caries and minimize dental fluorosis that is based on 1962 federal recommendations from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In 2011, the Board anticipated the publication of new HHS fluoridation guidelines and filed a CR-101 Pre-proposal Statement of Inquiry in order to be prepared to respond to new HHS recommendations. The new HHS guidelines are now available. The new HHS optimal fluoride level is 0.7 mg/l. This is a reduction from the previous HHS recommended range of 0.7 to 1.2 mg/l. A copy of the HHS guidance is provided in your board materials under Tab 7b.

Clark Halvorson, Director of the Office of Drinking Water, and Stephen Baker, Office of Drinking water, are here to present the new HHS guidelines, give some background and historical information about fluoride in drinking water systems and discuss recommended next steps in light of the new HHS guidelines.

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