



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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November 5, 2015

TO: Keith Grellner, Chair
Washington State Board of Health

FROM: Kathy Lofy, State Health Officer 
Washington State Department of Health

SUBJECT: Recommendation to State Board of Health regarding petition for rule making
from Gerald Steel dated October 2, 2015

The Department of Health (department) recommends the State Board of Health (board) deny the petition received from Gerald Steel dated October 2, 2015. The petition specifically requests the board adopt the following in rule:

“Fluoridation chemical additives allowed to be added to Group A public drinking water shall have test results that show the additive at full strength contains no detectable lead or arsenic.”

RCW 70.119A.080 directs the department to administer a Group A drinking water program consistent with the Safe Drinking Water Act and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rules. Under RCW 43.20.050, the board adopts EPA rules to meet the mandate for a state program that ensures safe and reliable drinking water. The EPA establishes drinking water safety standards for substances that can be harmful to human health. This includes standards for lead and arsenic.

In addition, WAC 246-290-220(3) requires that any treatment chemicals added to water intended for potable use must comply with NSF/ANSI Standard 60. This includes all additives used for public water fluoridation. The department relies on NSF International to evaluate and certify products for drinking water that ensure compliance with the health and safety standards established by the EPA and adopted by the board.

We believe the current regulatory framework provided in Washington State statute and rule is sufficient to protect the public health and provide safe and reliable drinking water.