



DATE: January 14, 2016

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: Keith Grellner, Chair

SUBJECT: BRIEFING - DRINKING WATER FLUORIDATION RULE UPDATE

Background and Summary:

RCW 43.20.050(2) authorizes the State Board of Health (Board) to adopt rules regulating public drinking water systems necessary to protect public health. Water systems that choose to add fluoride under their own authority must maintain fluoride levels consistent with WAC 246-290-460, Fluoridation of drinking water, which establishes a fluoride concentration range intended to prevent dental caries and minimize dental fluorosis.

The current fluoride concentration range is based on the 1962 recommendations from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In 2011, HHS released draft language of a new fluoride recommendation for review and comment. In anticipation of a new final recommendation, the Board filed a CR-101, Pre-proposal Statement of Inquiry, in May 2011. The new HHS guidelines were published in 2015. The board was briefed on the new guidelines in June 2015 and requested staff to proceed with rulemaking to align the new rule with the new guidelines, make editorial changes and to add a notification requirement. A new CR-101 was published on July 29, 2015 to accommodate this request.

Clark Halvorson, Director of the Office of Drinking Water at Department of Health, will brief the Board on the department's work to update the fluoride rule.

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