



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

*PO Box 47990 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7990*

March 2024

William Osmunson, DDS, MPH  
Washington Action for Safe Water

Sent Via Email

Dear Dr. Osmunson:

This letter provides formal notice that the Washington State Board of Health (Board) denied your petition for rule making, submitted on February 12, 2024, at its regular business meeting on March 13, 2024, for the reasons described below.

The petition asked the Board to revise WAC 246-290-220, Group A Public Water Supplies: Drinking water materials and additives, by adding a new subsection (8) to the rule that would provide language recommending specific parameters for the ingestion of fluoride from drinking water and toothpaste for pregnant mothers, infants, and children.

Prior to the meeting, Board members were provided with all materials that were submitted relating to the petition. Board staff provided background information about the scope and intent of the existing rule and current recommendations from the Department of Health and other organizations regarding fluoride in public water systems. Board members stated that they support the science around the use of fluoride as being beneficial and protective of oral health, and do not view mild fluorosis as harmful or as generally resulting in neurotoxicity. Members noted that they support fluoride in water systems, with one member noting that in their community there are many people who do not have access to dental care or may not have good dental hygiene. Members also noted that there is no requirement for fluoridation in the public water system rules and that the use of fluoride in water systems varies throughout the state. Members stated that dentists and pediatricians are well positioned to advise parents about their individual use of fluoride for themselves and their children.

RCW 34.05.330(3) allows a person to appeal a petition's denial to the Governor within 30 days of the denial.

Sincerely,

Patty Hayes, MPH  
Chair