



COUNTY OF ERIE

GALE R. BURSTEIN, MD, MPH
COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

Sabrina A. Figler
Director of Water Quality
Erie County Water Authority
3750 River Road
Tonawanda, NY 14150

Dear Ms. Figler:

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the fluoridation of public water supplies. The New York State Department Of Health (NYSDOH) has not changed their recommendations for fluoride addition to drinking water supplies. NYSDOH continues to maintain that the addition of fluoride provides a public health benefit at optimal fluoride concentrations as recommended by the U.S. Public Health Service and Centers of Disease Control.


If the Erie County Water Authority would like to pursue discontinuing the addition of fluoride into the public water supply, you would need meet the requirements of Chapter 45, Article 11, Title 1, Section 1100-a of Public Health Law, which requires:

3. No county, city, town or village, including a county wherein a public authority owns both its public water system and the water supply for such system, that fluoridates a public water supply or causes a public water supply to be fluoridated, shall discontinue the addition of a fluoride compound to such public water supply unless it has first complied with the following requirements:
 - (a) issue a notice to the public of the preliminary determination to discontinue fluoridation for comment, which shall include the justification for the proposed discontinuance, alternatives to fluoridation available, and a summary of consultations with health professionals and the department concerning the proposed discontinuance. Such notice may, but is not required to, include publication in local newspapers. "Consultations with health professionals" may include formal studies by hired professionals, informal consultations with local public health officials or other health professionals, or other consultations, provided that the nature of such consultations and the identity of such professionals shall be identified in the public notice. "Alternatives to fluoridation" may include formal alternatives provided by or at the expense of the county, city, town or village, or other alternatives available to the public. Any public comments received in response to such notice shall be addressed by the county, city, town or village in the ordinary course of business; and

(b) provide the department at least ninety days prior written notice of the intent to discontinue and submit a plan for discontinuance that includes but is not limited to the notice that will be provided to the public, consistent with paragraph (a) of this subdivision, of the determination to discontinue fluoridation of the water supply, including the date of such discontinuance and alternatives to fluoridation, if any, that will be made available in the community, and that includes information as may be required under the Sanitary Code.

In addition to the above, ECWA would need approval from NYSDOH for the treatment change of eliminating the addition of fluoride from the public water supply pursuant to Subpart 5-1 of the New York State Sanitary Code.

Sincerely,



Jennifer DeJaney, PE
Director of Environmental Health
Erie County Department of Health

Cc: File
NYSDOH Western Region
Leonard F. Kowalski, Executive Engineer