



## Department of Health

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
Governor

**HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.**  
Commissioner

**SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.**  
Executive Deputy Commissioner

July 6, 2018

Mr. John J. Mogavero  
Chief Operator  
Erie County Water Authority - VDW WTP  
3750 River Road  
Tonawanda, New York 14150

Dear Mr. Mogavero:

The New York State Department of Health (Department) congratulates **ECWA Direct** on receiving a Fifty-Year Fluoridation Award. The award, provided by the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors, the American Dental Association, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), recognizes water systems across the United States that have reached fifty years of continuous water fluoridation in 2017. The Department recognizes the hard work and dedication that is necessary to reach this milestone.

The CDC named community water fluoridation as one of the ten great public health achievements of the 20th Century because of its role in the decline of tooth decay in children and tooth loss in adults. Nearly three-quarters (74.4 percent) of the nation's population, or 211 million people, served by community water systems have access to optimally fluoridated tap water. The CDC recommends water fluoridation as one of the most practical, cost-effective, equitable, and safe measures a community can take to prevent tooth decay and improve oral health.

Due to its public health impact and cost savings, support for water fluoridation at the community level remains a priority for New York State. The Department awards up to \$5 million annually under the Drinking Water Fluoridation Grant Program to support costs related to the planning, design, construction, installation, repair, replacement, or upgrade of fluoride equipment in publicly-owned drinking water facilities. To learn more or apply for a grant, visit the New York State Grants Gateway: <https://grantsgateway.ny.gov/> (Component 1- Grants Gateway # DOH01-DWFR41-2017; Component 2- Grants Gateway # DOH01- DWFR42-2017). Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.

The Department applauds your commitment to providing optimally fluoridated water. For fifty years, children and adults in your community have benefited from fluoridation's cavity protection. Thank you for your continuous commitment to the oral health of your residents. Please extend our appreciation to all of your fellow operators and co-workers.

Sincerely,

Howard A. Zucker, M.D., J.D.  
Commissioner of Health

cc: Mr. Dust  
Dr. Burstein  
ECWA Board of Commissioners

Enclosure: Award Certificate