

Loveland Utilities Commission
c/o Dave Schneider, Chairman
200 N. Wilson Ave.
Loveland, Colorado 80537

15 October 2014

Dear Members of the Loveland Utilities Commission:

I want to take this opportunity to revisit my letter of 25 June, in which I requested your time to “present the urgent case for fully and consistently implementing the public policy of sufficiently adjusting fluoride levels in public water to levels that reap maximum health benefits for all people in Loveland.”

I thank you again for taking the time to hear information presented by the dental and health authorities on what would be a healthful level of fluoridation in Loveland’s water. In your meeting on 30 September, you heard from numerous public-health and dental authorities, including the CDPHE, who were unanimous in the recommendation that an optimal level of fluoride in Loveland’s water is safe and effective in preventing a significant amount of dental caries in the entire population. The LWD staff also reported that the annual operational cost of bringing this benefit to all Lovelanders has been only 56¢ per person.

You also heard those dental and health authorities recommend that the optimal level of fluoridation be that determined by a formula set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Presently, the CDC’s formula calculates that, for Loveland’s latitude, the optimal level is 0.9ppm.

Four years ago, prior to the water-plant expansion, LWD was fluoridating to reach the recommended optimal level of 0.9ppm. But during the expansion, supplemental fluoridation was unwisely stopped for 2.3 years, and when it resumed it was sub-optimal at about half the pre-2011 levels. After my letter to you revealed this state of affairs, LWD staff quickly made substantial corrections in their operations—for which they are to be commended—but Loveland’s water is still being sub-optimally fluoridated at only 0.7ppm.

LWD staff has justified their latest choice of 0.7ppm by citing many other Front Range communities have chosen that level. (Though notably, Fort Collins has deliberately stayed at 1.0ppm after the people there in 2005 voted 2-1 to retain fluoridation at that level.) But those communities who, in their local discretion, have lowered fluoridation levels are not following the levels presently recommended by dental and health authorities, and are by definition sub-optimal. Staff also cites a 2010 announcement by the CDC that it was considering lowering its recommendation, but four years after taking public comment, that change has not materialized,

and it is not known when it will, or what form the change will take, if any. Consequently, CDC's formula remains the consensus recommendation of established public-health authorities.

Loveland's City Council has directed that "steps be taken to increase the amount of fluorine to proper amounts as recommended by the health and dental authorities." Accordingly, I ask that you advise the City Council (and Staff) that health and dental authorities presently recommend the proper amount of fluorine ion (fluoride) as 0.9ppm, and that it remain at that level in Loveland unless and until the CDC formally changes its recommendation.

Sincerely,



Larry W. Sarner
711 W. 9th St.
Loveland, Colorado 80537

cc: Steve Adams, Staff Liaison to LUC
Troy Krenning, Council Liaison to LUC
Alison Prokop, Recording Secretary, LUC
Chris Matkins, Loveland Water Department Manager