



**Date:** December 14, 2011

**To:** Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager  
**Through:** Theodore L. Voorhees, Deputy City Manager  
**From:** Donald F. Greeley, Director, Water Management  
**Subject:** Citizen Inquiry Regarding Fluoride in Drinking Water

**Executive Summary**

The City of Durham has added fluoride to its drinking water since 1957 to aid in promoting dental health. State regulations for the addition of fluoride had required a target concentration of 1.0 mg/l. Recently, the EPA determined that dental health could still be maintained with lower amounts of fluoride. Based on this, NC regulators issued a position statement allowing water systems to lower their fluoride levels to 0.7 mg/l. Upon receipt of the position statement, the City changed operating parameters to achieve the new target level. Department staff continues to actively monitor the regulatory landscape to ensure that the City's drinking water continues to meet all Federal and State regulations while delivering aesthetically pleasing water to the customers' tap.

**Recommendation**

Based on recommendations from the US EPA, the US Department of Health and Human Services, and NC DENR's statement, the department supports the continued addition of fluoride to the City's drinking water to maintain the public health benefits.

Attachment: Public Water Supply Section Announcement