

MOON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

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August, 2022

Dear MTMA Water Customer:

Subject: Fluoridation

Fluoridation is the addition of fluoride to a public water supply to achieve a recommended level believed to reduce the incidence of tooth decay. The mineral fluoride occurs naturally on earth and is released from rocks into the soil, water and air. Some groundwater sources have naturally occurring high levels of fluoride that must be reduced by a public water supply. The naturally occurring fluoride level of the MTMA water supply is approximately 0.2 milligrams/liter (mg/l). The PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) drinking water maximum contaminant level for Fluoride is 2.0 mg/l. The task to provide community water supply fluoridation guidance was delegated by the US Surgeon General to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Beginning in 1962, the CDC recommended a fluoride target level of 0.7 to 1.2 mg/l. In 2015, the CDC changed the guidelines and recommended a lower level of 0.7 mg/l. Health experts recommended the change because Americans now have access to more sources of fluoride, such as tooth paste, mouth rinses and fluoride treatment. Greater availability of good dental care has generally reduced the need for a fluoride additive. Too much fluoride can cause permanent staining of teeth (dental fluorosis).

MTMA began fluoridation when our treatment plant began operation in 1965. MTMA initially fed fluoride to achieve a level of 1.0-1.2 mg/l. After the CDC guidance change, MTMA reduced the level of fluoride to 0.6 to 0.7 mg/l. Currently, some neighboring communities continue to fluoridate and some do not. The Robinson Township Authority, which also supplies water to Findlay Township, continues to fluoridate its water, but the feed rate was dropped to a level of 0.35 mg/l based on 2020 reporting. The independent water systems servicing North Fayette Township, Crescent Township, Hopewell and Coraopolis do not fluoridate. Generally, bottled water and other bottled beverages are not fluoridated. We were informed by the PA DEP Pittsburgh regional office that several local water systems have received permits to discontinue fluoridation in recent years while no systems have begun fluoridation. The PA DEP and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) take no position for or against fluoridation. Fluoridation is not practiced widely in Europe and most other countries.

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MTMA requested PA DEP approval to discontinue fluoridation for the following reasons:

- High concentration fluoride is dangerous for MTMA Treatment plant operators to handle.
- The addition of fluoride is not needed to make water safe to drink. MTMA provides excellent quality drinking water and prefers not to add other substances to the water.
- Some MTMA customers support fluoridating, while some oppose. Customers who support water supply fluoridation to benefit oral health have other options to access fluoride. Customers who oppose fluoridation of the water supply would need to take unreasonable measures to remove added fluoride.
- Some doctors believe fluoride interferes with thyroid function in certain individuals.
- Some doctors believe fluoride hinders neurological development in infants and young children.
- MTMA customers have access to quality dental care.
- The MTMA dry sodium fluorosilicate feed system is near the end of its useful life. MTMA would need to proceed to get a DEP permit either to replace the fluoride feed system or get a permit to discontinue fluoridation.

All MTMA customers were notified with their recent billing that MTMA was requesting approval to discontinue fluoridation. PA DEP approved this change in August of 2022. MTMA will discontinue fluoridation in December 2022. All customers will be notified of this change in the August, September, October billing cycle.

Thank you for taking the time to read our letter and consider matters related to the public water supply.

Very truly yours,



John F. Riley, P.E.
General Manager

Cc: Board of Directors
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MTMA Management Staff
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