

## POLICY POSITION

### 7. NATURAL FLUORIDE LEVELS IN U.S. DRINKING WATER SUPPLIES

The American Dental Association states that the natural fluoride levels of drinking water in the United States do not constitute a health hazard.

The American Medical Association states that it is unaware of evidence showing that naturally occurring fluorides in the U.S. have adverse effects on the public health and that the AMA concurs with the ADA in asking EPA to reconsider its present primary regulation and reclassify naturally occurring fluoride. The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials opposes the present EPA classification of fluoride and requests that fluoride be changed from the Primary to the Secondary Drinking Water Regulations. The Surgeon General has stated that no sound evidence exists which shows that drinking water with the various concentrations of fluoride found naturally in public water supplies in the U.S. has any adverse effect on general health or dental health.

States with primary enforcement responsibility do not have authority to grant exemptions for water systems with natural fluoride levels of twice the optimum and above, beyond December 31, 1983. A large number of water systems throughout the U.S. may be forced to spend substantial sums of money to comply with the E.P.A. fluoride Maximum Contaminant Level which does not present a health hazard, or risk civil penalties of up to \$5,000 per day. If states do not enforce the Fluoride Maximum Contaminant Level which does not present a health hazard, they will be in jeopardy of losing their primary enforcement responsibility and of losing federal funding for carrying out their public water system supervision program.

#### Recommendations

The Southern Legislative Conference:

1. Supports the statements made by the medical community in the United States which say that the natural fluoride levels in U.S. drinking water supplies do not have adverse effects on general health or dental health; and
2. Joins with these organizations in asking EPA to completely remove fluoride from the Primary Drinking Water Regulations and reclassify it in the Secondary Drinking Water Regulations since there is no evidence of adverse health effects.

Adopted at the Southern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting on August 15, 1984, Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Previously adopted at the 1984 Annual Meeting of the Southern Governors' Association, Williamsburg, Virginia.