

Dalton Utilities adds fluoride to drinking water because it is a requirement of our water permit issued by the State of Georgia. The State monitors our compliance to the requirements of our water permit through monthly reports and periodic inspection.

Extensive research conducted over the past 60 years has shown fluoridation of community water to be safe and effective in preventing tooth decay. Fluoridation of drinking water is endorsed by the Center for Disease Control, the U.S. Surgeon General and numerous other health and professional organizations, including the America Dental Association, American Medical Association, American Association of Public Health and the World Health Organization.

The National Research Council, in its 2006 report, *Fluoride in Drinking Water: A Scientific Review of EPA's Standard*, examined the possible toxic effects of ingested fluoride and concluded that fluoride at recommended concentrations is not likely to produce a number of the unwanted health effects that had been claimed by opponents of water fluoridation. The Environmental Protection Agency has set a maximum level for fluoride in drinking water at 4 milligrams per liter (mg/l), with a secondary (nonenforceable) level of 2 mg/l. Dalton Utilities fluoride levels fall within the lower 0.7-1.3 mg/l levels recommended by the Georgia Public Health Laboratory and Georgia Rural Water Association. 95.8% of the population of Georgia receives fluoridated water.

In order to remove fluoride from drinking water, there must be a petition (signed by at least 10% of registered voters in a voting district who also voted in the last general election) requesting that a referendum be added to the next election ballot to give local residents the opportunity to vote whether or not to remove fluoride from drinking water. If such a petition is organized and governments of the City of Dalton and/or Whitfield County wish to go to the expense of holding such a referendum, Dalton Utilities will certainly abide by the outcome of such a vote, but it is not something that the Utility would initiate.