

**From:** "JT (Public Access)" <[support@publicaccess.zendesk.com](mailto:support@publicaccess.zendesk.com)>  
**Subject:** [Public Access] Re: public notification for exceeding the SMCL for fluoride in tap water  
**Date:** April 27, 2016 at 5:10:30 AM PDT  
**To:** Cragoe <[cragoe@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cragoe@sbcglobal.net)>  
**Reply-To:** Public Access <[support+id14137@publicaccess.zendesk.com](mailto:support+id14137@publicaccess.zendesk.com)>

##- Please type your reply above this line -##

Your request (14137) has been updated. To add additional comments, reply to this email.

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**JT (Public Access)**

Apr 27, 8:10 AM

Thank you for your inquiry to the EPA Web site. Your request has been received by the Headquarters Public Access Service, a contractor operated reference and referral service.

You requested information on if a water utility does tests and shows more than 2ppm fluoride are they then required by the SDWA to notify their customers and also make efforts to notify all people who drink that water.

Your best course of action would be to contact the EPA Safe Drinking Water hotline. The Safe Drinking Water Hotline provides information about EPA's drinking water regulations and other related drinking water and ground water topics:

Phone: [1-800-426-4791](tel:1-800-426-4791), Monday – Friday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM ET

You can also browse FAQs and submit questions at the Ground Water and Drinking Water Frequently Asked Questions

Database: <https://safewater.zendesk.com/hc/en-us>

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Public Access Reference Service, operated by ASRC Primus  
EPA Headquarters  
William Jefferson Clinton Federal Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. (3404T)  
Washington, DC 20460

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**Cragoe**

Apr 26, 12:57 PM

When I sent the form in I thought I would get a response from the EPA. I did not realize I would get a response from a contractor. Your repose in no way answered my question and merely repeated it.

Here's the question again:

>

> If a water utility does tests and shows more than 2ppm fluoride are they then required by the SDWA to notify their customers and also make efforts to notify all people who drink that water?

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> I'm hoping you can give me a yes or no answer.

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> Thanks.

> Doug Cragoe

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**JT (Public Access)**

Apr 26, 8:59 AM

Thank you for your inquiry to the EPA Web site. Your request has been received by the Headquarters Public Access Service, a contractor operated reference and referral service.

You requested information on if a water utility tests shows more than 2ppm fluoride, are they required by the SDWA to notify their customers and also make efforts to notify all people who drink that water.

We apologize for our delayed response. Due to unforeseen circumstances, your inquiry was not handled in a timely manner. We thank you for your patience while awaiting our response.

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Many communities add fluoride to their drinking water to promote dental health. Each community makes its own decision about whether or not to add fluoride. EPA has set an enforceable drinking water standard for fluoride of 4 mg/L (some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of this level over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones). EPA has also set a secondary fluoride standard of 2 mg/L to protect against dental fluorosis. Dental fluorosis, in its moderate or severe forms, may result in a brown staining and/or pitting of the permanent teeth. This problem occurs only in developing teeth, before they erupt from the gums. Children under nine should not drink water that has more than 2 mg/L of fluoride.

In 2011, EPA announced its intent to review drinking water regulations for fluoride as part of the [Six-Year Review of Drinking Water Standards](#) required by the SDWA. More detailed information about this process is available online.

- [Review of the Fluoride Drinking Water Regulation](#)
- [Fluoride Risk Assessment and Relative Source Contribution](#)
- [Fluoride Health Effects in Drinking Water](#)

Additional useful resources:

- [EPA publication Fact Sheet: Fluoride in Drinking Water Opens a New Window.](#) (EPA Number: 822F93010).
- [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Review of Fluoride: Benefits and Risks](#)
- [National Cancer Institute Fluoridated Water: Questions and Answers](#)

If you have additional questions:

- [Safe Drinking Water Hotline](#)
- [Frequent Questions: Contaminant-Specific Concerns](#)

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Washington, DC 20460

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**Cragoe**

Apr 5, 2:29 PM

If a water utility does tests and shows more than 2ppm fluoride are they then required by the SDWA to notify their customers and also make efforts to notify all people who drink that water? If so, can you please put this in writing that I can send it to the contractor operating you SDWA hotline. When asked this question the contractor refers to this EPA

webpage: <https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations/secondary-drinking-water-standards-guidance-nuisance-chemicals>

The contractor then consistently states that there are no notification requirements for exceeding the SMCL for fluoride. The contractor needs to be properly informed about what is in the SDWA rules.

This webpage is wrong because it has this quote: "These contaminants are not health threatening at the SMCL. Public water systems only need to test for them on a voluntary basis." Water systems must test for fluoride.

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