

## The Fluoridation Campaign

In the 1970s, local authorities lost their power to control their own water and much of the West Midlands and parts of the North-east were fluoridated.

Currently 6 million people in England & Wales have their water fluoridated. The Scottish parliament decided not to require fluoridation, and more recently, the Isle of Man followed suit. Water is commonly fluoridated in the Irish Republic.

1985 Old fluoridation act introduced which allowed public water companies to agree to health authority request to fluoridate, but were not obliged to do so.

1991 Water Privatisation Act empowered health authorities to require the ten new water companies to fluoridate their water, but provided a loophole that, after discussion with the Health authority the water company decided not to implement fluoridation, they didn't have to.

Early '90s Fifty-five requests by health trusts to their water companies were rejected out of fear of being sued by their customers, because of public opposition to the policy of mass medication and fears of the risk to public health.

2003 Water Act empowered health trusts to order water companies to fluoridate (costs borne by the health trusts). There are now signs, with Southern Water going ahead in Southampton by 2011, that fluoridation in England & Wales will spread more widely.

## Fluoridation

The issue of adding fluorosilicates (fluoride) routinely to drinking water is one of the worst outrages in public health policy. This is not the naturally occurring calcium fluoride that is present in some drinking water, usually at low levels of about 0.1ppm (parts per million). It is a by-product of a number of industrial processes, initially the iron, copper, aluminium and now the phosphate fertilizer industries, and contains also a number of heavy metals; altogether a potent toxic cocktail\*.

\* *Fluoride – Drinking ourselves to Death?* by Barry Groves who is a well informed source on this.

The disposal of these industrial wastes is very costly, so the policy of adding them to public water supplies was started in the USA, backed largely by the Mellon family, owners of ALCOA, the largest aluminium manufacturer, and one of the principal fluoride wartime polluters. Starting with Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1945, it was introduced within two years to a hundred cities. Basically a dirty tricks campaign that labelled opposers as crackpots (and during the McCarthy era as left-wing subversives), it has never completed convincing tests, nor produced adequate evidence of its efficacy or safety. "It was a political, not a scientific health issue" \* and, like the agenda of the more recent genetically modified foods campaign, became a major US export.

\*Waldblott, McKinney & Burgstahler: *Fluoridation – The Great Dilemma*, Coronado Press, 1978, p.288.

Fluoridation of water supplies is the present policy in much of the English-speaking world, and in a few other countries like Chile, this is permitted, usually at levels of about 1ppm (or 1mg. fluoride per litre of water), but many other countries, where it is often strongly opposed by citizens' groups as well as by scientists, decided that the risks were too high. The five countries that still fluoridate to a large extent are Ireland (75% of the population), Australia (66%), USA, Canada & New Zealand (50%); Britain is lagging at 10%, but the UK government has now strengthened legislation to enable fluoridation to become mandatory.

The World Health Organization and the American Medical Association were persuaded to back the policy. The FDA (Food & Drug Admin.) has backed off slightly from its 100% endorsement of the practice, due to public exposure of the scam, but today 130 million Americans in 9,600 communities continue to drink fluoridated water.\* Like the USA, about 50% of the Canadian population has fluoridated water.

\* Jour. Dent. Res. 1990; 69:723-7.

Mass fluoridated water came to Britain in the 1950s, and currently 10% of the population is exposed, mostly in the West Midlands and the North-East. The present UK government policy is to require all water companies to adopt fluoridation. Southern Water (Southampton) plans to implement this requirement by 2011. In Australia, some of the fluoride laws are so Draconian that people may be prosecuted for speaking out against water fluoridation.\*

\* "Living in a democratic fluoridated country", *Australian Fluoridation News*.

The addition of fluoride as a policy is justified by the claim that it reduces dental cavities, especially in children. Independent research [*Ibid.*] challenges this claim, showing that the body accumulates levels of fluoride in the bones and certain organs, and there is evidence of increased risk of cancer, brain function impairment, kidney malfunction and premature aging. At higher dosage levels fluorosilicates are an effective rat poison.

Unfortunately fluoride is also added to many processed foods, fruit juice, milk and, especially toothpaste. Fluoride is released into food cooked in Teflon-coated cookware, so the actual intake may be significant, even if you don't live in a fluoridated area. For reasons that are difficult to comprehend, but which are clearly political in nature, many dental and health authorities seem to support this mass medication of whole populations, and politicians seem happy to go along with it.

Barry Groves concludes, "Fluoridation is the longest, most expensive and most spectacularly unsuccessful marketing campaign ever to come out of the United States". This is an example of a cynical alliance between industrial leaders, orthodox science and the politicians we elect, which shows complete contempt for public health and welfare, and indeed for the truth; it shows that we have to be extremely vigilant to preserve our freedoms, and indeed, our health."\*

\* Barry Groves, *Fluoride: Drinking Ourselves to Death?* p.227.

[Excerpt from *The Story of Water* by Alick Bartholomew, March 2009]

See the book: [Fluoride: Drinking Ourselves to Death?](#) by Barry Groves