Fluoridation in Cumbria

Report by: Cumbrians Against Fluoridation
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CUMBRIANS

1] The fluoride, which is introduced at Cornhow and Ennerdale water treatment plants by United Utilities is not naturally occurring fluoride. It is Hexafluorosilic Acid, sourced as a by-product of the fertiliser industry, and contains small amounts of lead, mercury, arsenic and beryllium. It has neither been tested or registered as fit for human consumption.

2] Fluoride cannot be removed from water unless you have installed a reverse osmosis unit.

3] Fluoride accumulates in the body. 50% of your daily fluoride intake will be stored in the bones. It may take several decades before any signs of deterioration are evident. Fluoride has been linked with many health concerns including thyroid disorders. Babies and those with low immune systems will be particularly vulnerable to this chemical.

4] Fluoride added to the water increases the local levels and risks. We suggest avoiding fluoridated toothpaste and not drinking tea. When our group tested 30 local people for fluoride levels those using both these products showed high levels of fluoride intake.

5] What does the scientific research say about fluoride? The independent scientific review undertaken by this government in 2000 to resolve years of disagreement found poor quality research over forty years meant it could reach no conclusion as to its safety or effectiveness. However, it identified 48% dental fluorosis [excess fluoride] in the population of artificially fluoridated areas.

6] Dental fluorosis indicates an excessive intake of fluoride. If there is an excess at a very young age then it results in a discoloration of the surface of the adult teeth. This can vary from white flecks to brown/yellow pitting. Long term fluoride excess can lead to skeletal fluorosis [bones become brittle and prone to breaks].

Fluoride is added to the water in an attempt to control early tooth decay. Its effectiveness is questionable and adding it to the water is a clumsy, autocratic way of medicating people which takes no account of personal health issues or rights.

It is unlikely that the target group, young children with tooth decay, are even drinking the water. Early, high decay is an indicator of a sugar rich diet which includes bottled drinks such as Cola's etc. Decay should be tackled through education about poor diet and delivering NHS dental services .

To register your protest contact your MP Tony Cunningham [Workington], Town Hall, Oxford St., Workington, at email:saundersm@ parliament.uk, tel: 01900 65815,

When MP's voted to change legislation in 2003 it was on condition that fluoridation would only take place in communities where there was strong public support for the action. West Cumbrians have never had an effective public consultation.

The Strategic Health Authority order U.U. to fluoridate. Contact Dr. Ann Hoskins at Director of Public Health, Cumbria & Lancashire Strategic Health Authority, Preston Business Centre, Watling Street Road, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 8DY, tel: 01772 647050, email: ann.hoskins@ clha.nhs.uk.

Silloth Churches on the Green

The churches in Silloth got together for the Carnival to put on a couple of sessions of singing hymns and contemporary Christian songs. We were helped along by visitors from near and far, some from as far away as Carlisle. Many thanks to Geoff Betsworth for the use of the generator that powered the guitar and keyboard. Thanks to Tony Whitmore for providing and putting up the tent and organising the Christian literature we had on display.

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