

# Fluoride FAQ's

## **Fluoride FAQs What do Canadian standards say a 'safe level' is for Fluoride?**

Health Canada states: "Health Canada has established the guideline for fluoride in drinking water as a maximum acceptable concentration of 1.5 milligrams per litre. Water containing fluoride at, or below, this maximum acceptable concentration does not pose a risk to human health."

"For communities wishing to fluoridate their water supply, the optimal concentration of fluoride in drinking water to promote dental health has been determined to be 0.7 mg/L." Aquatera's Operating Approval, issued by Alberta Environment & Parks (AEP), mandates that when Fluoride is added to the water its concentration is to be 0.6 to 1.0 mg/L. That said, Aquatera targets 0.8 mg/L to ensure there is continuous compliance with our Operating Approval. Read Health Canada's Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality: Guideline Technical Document - Fluoride for more information.

## **What is the average level of Fluoride in our drinking water?**

The average fluoride dosage for 2017 was 0.80 mg/L. Fluoride levels are ALWAYS kept within the standards set by Health Canada and AEP. It is important to note that fluoride naturally exists in the water Aquatera withdraws from the Wapiti River. Historically we see the concentration in the raw water at .08mg/L to 0.1mg/L.

## **What steps would Aquatera have to take to stop adding fluoride to the water?**

For Aquatera to cease adding fluoride to the drinking water we would require specific direction from our Shareholders (the City of Grande Prairie, the County of Grande Prairie No.1 and the Town of Sexsmith). Upon receiving that direction, Aquatera would notify AEP.

## **Are there any negative impacts from this practice?**

From Aquatera's perspective there is no negative impact on the safety of our drinking water in continuing or ceasing the addition of fluoride to the drinking water.

## **How much does adding fluoride to the water cost?**

Fluoride makes up approximately 7% of the total water treatment chemical costs. Continuing or ceasing fluoride addition would have a modest impact on total operating costs and no impact on rates.

## **Is Aquatera doing any research on the safety of additives or ways to save customers money?**

Both Health Canada and AEP have determined that fluoride in the concentrations added by Aquatera are safe for human consumption. We are mandated by both Regulatory Agencies. Fluoride is approved for use in our drinking water by the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF). Aquatera is continually looking to optimize its operating costs. With water treatment, a large portion of the costs are the chemicals required to ensure a safe and high-quality drinking water for our customers.