



WATERSHED

National Pure Water Association

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ACTION NEEDED!

The new fluoridation consultation regulations, together with the indemnity for water companies, was passed through Parliament on 21st March. It becomes law on 1st April 2005.

TAKE ACTION NOW!

The consultation regulations have been left very much as we expected: the final decision to fluoridate rests with the Health Authority, regardless of what representations are made to them during the 'consultation' and by whom. The Government is not listening to reason and ignores human rights. We have to impress on them the enormous risk they are taking - not just with the health of people forced to drink poisoned water, but also by greatly increasing the volume of hazardous chemicals on the country's roads.

We have prepared two self-contained Power Point presentations, for use by individuals and groups. They can be sent through the post on computer discs more cheaply than paper documents and will play in any PC (though not in Macs). Individuals may watch the presentations for their own information, but they are also suitable for viewing by groups. The discs have been designed to be self-explanatory: anyone can give a first class presentation. All the information you need is contained on the disc - including back-up files to answer supplementary questions.

The Risk Assessment disc covers the dangers of transporting bulk quantities of hexafluorosilicic acid on public roads; and the Dental Fluorosis disc, based on the phenomenally successful **'Smile, Please'** leaflet written by Jane Jones and George Glasser, covers the hidden psychological and social costs of water fluoridation.

Please send either one or both discs to your MP with a letter from you, and tell them you want this madness stopped.

Each disc is priced at £5.00, to cover postage and packing and to help with the cost of production, or you can order both discs for £8.00. Send cheques made out to NPWA to: CD-ROM, c/o G. Glasser, 180 Milton Road, Hoyland, S74 9BW.

We need as many people as possible to see these presentations: MPs, Councillors, emergency planners, emergency service personnel, trades

unions, Primary Care Trusts, W.I.s, local residents associations, community groups etc. Please order as many as you can use and get the message out.

Since the consultation regulations will become law, the Health Authorities will quickly begin pushing for new fluoridation schemes. We know they have their eyes on London and Manchester.

Please alert us if advertisements appear in your local newspaper regarding consultation periods in your area. George Glasser 01226 360909, Liz Vaughan 01229 885420.

UK Water Companies Join Up With British Fluoridation Society

It appears that Pamela Taylor, Executive Director of Water UK, was wearing two hats during the lead-up to the passage of the 2003 Water Bill. While lobbying government on behalf of the water industry, she was also (apparently) lobbying the water industry on behalf of the British Fluoridation Society. Most members of a corporate board of directors (in the real world) would take a dim view of their chief executive participating in any activity that remotely suggests a conflict of interests, especially when the chief executive publicly accepted accolades for the possible indiscretion. At NPWA, we wonder how the Water UK board of directors viewed the above scenario?

During a self-congratulatory, back-slapping session at the British Fluoridation Society's launch of the second edition of "One in a million" in June 2004, Andy Burnham, Leigh (MP), said, "A special word of thanks is due to Pamela Taylor, Chief Executive of Water UK, who was responsible for bringing the water industry behind the general argument with us." See <http://www.bfsweb.org/burnham%20speech.htm>.

To the NPWA, campaigners and many others, the above statement gives the unmistakable impression that Ms. Taylor, Chief Executive of Water UK, was acting as a lobbyist on behalf of the British Fluoridation Society. The accolades bestowed upon Taylor for her successful lobbying efforts by the Vice President of the British Fluoridation Society (BFS) only confirmed what the NPWA had suspected regarding the water industry's present position on fluoridation: **Ms. Taylor was "... responsible for bringing the water industry behind the general argument with us"**. This statement can only be construed by NPWA to mean that the UK water

industry is now on-side with the BFS in an adversarial relationship with millions of consumers who oppose the fluoridation of their drinking water.

The privatised water industry states that they must remain "neutral" in the fluoridation issue! However, it appears that behind the scenes, they are not quite as neutral as they would have us believe. NPWA are left wondering if the water industry is contributing anything other than their moral and political support to the BFS.

The NPWA also feels that the water industry bought into the BFS propaganda that people opposing fluoridation are nothing more than 'flat-earthers,' or 'kooks and crackpots' and should not be taken seriously.

Let your water company know what you think of their new-found camaraderie with the British Fluoridation Society.

Water Companies' Civil and Criminal Indemnities

The fact that the water industry asked government for **unlimited civil and criminal indemnities** to fluoridate the drinking water is chilling when one thinks about it.

The request implies that the industry is fully aware that health risks associated with fluoridation, but as long as they are indemnified, the UK water industry have very little regard for the customer's health and safety.

WATERSHED NEWS IN BRIEF

Scottish Success! First Minister Jack McConnell announced that fluoridation would not take place in Scotland during this session of Parliament, (the session lasts until 2007). Congratulations to Jim Gibb Stuart and all his colleagues in SPWA.

- During the debate, it came to light that the Scottish Executive has paid almost £70,000 to the British Fluoridation Society. Green MSP Patrick Harvie accused the Executive of bias for continuing to give grants to the BFS.
- Sheffield Council Votes 'No' After a proposal by Green Party councillors on Sheffield City Council and presentations from Dr Dianne Phillips and Elizabeth McDonagh, the council reiterated their opposition to water fluoridation. 57 against fl, 14 for, 3 abstentions.
- Leeds Council Turns Over! Leeds City Council has always been staunchly pro-fluoride, but after elections changed its composition, Green Party Councillors proposed that it discuss fluoridation policy again. NPWA member Pauline Johnson circulated every Councillor before the vote

with the papers which swung it in Sheffield. This time Leeds Councillors voted to oppose fluoridation. 58 against fl, 23 for, 7 abstentions.

- UK Councils Against Fluoridation held a meeting with Environmental Health Officers from the three councils involved and the Fire Service in fluoridated West Cumbria. Our new Risk Assessment presentation on the dangers of transporting hexafluorosilicic acid was given by George Glasser and Dr Sheila Gibson, with favourable results.
- Members have distributed warning leaflets to estate agents in fluoridated West Cumbria and to households on the tanker routes. You will find two copies of a similar leaflet with this mailing. Please use them to inform local groups, Councils, or your MP of the danger from these bulk shipments.
- Committee Members: After our AGM last October, the Committee members are as follows Elizabeth Vaughan (Chairman), James Gibb Stuart (Vice Chairman), George Glasser, Paul Clein, Tony Lees, Elizabeth McDonagh, Ian Packington, George Pinnell, John Graham and Roy & Carolyn Smith. Dr Dianne Phillips has resigned to pursue other interests. We thank her for her service on the Committee and wish her well.
- You can still use the office number to contact us: 01226 360909. George Glasser is still there.
- BFS Rebranding? Manchester Dental School is preparing to open a 'National Fluoride Information Centre'. We suspect the discredited and homeless BFS is looking for a new image and a new address.
- A survey undertaken in East Lancashire by Dental Officer Dr Gary Whittle revealed that 50% of children did not possess toothbrushes.

New Membership Secretary: Please note the NPWA Membership Secretary is now Mrs Sandra Clarke. You can reach her via e-mail at mk.foe@virgin.net or by post to: 8 Harebell Close, Walnut Tree, Milton Keynes. MK7 7BA. Any queries regarding subscription payments, etc. should be addressed to her.

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO WATERSHED

If you are able to receive Watershed electronically, please send your e-mail address to water@npwa.freeserve.co.uk In future we will e-mail you when the next Watershed is put on the website and you can read it, download it, or print it out from there. This will help us to save on printing and postage costs. If you still wish to receive a paper copy, you need **do nothing**.