

OCT 7 1983

ODW:EHellack;lh:X27575;FM-1111;MSHE:9/28/83;Due Date 9/28/83
AX-07521
cc: Administrator (PYI)
Deputy Administrator (PYI)
OPRM (PYI)
OLEC (PYI)
OKD (PYI)
OIL (PYI)

Robert S. Jackson, M.D.
Commissioner, South Carolina Department
of Health and Environmental Control
2100 Bull Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Dr. Jackson:

Mr. William D. Buckelshaus, RPA Administrator has asked me to reply to your letter of August 31, 1983, in regard to the status of drinking water regulations for fluoride.

I realize that the delay in completing the review of the Maximum Contaminant Level for fluoride must seem interminable to the State of South Carolina, but I assure you that we are moving as rapidly as we can. The further review of the fluoride issue by the Surgeon General was necessitated by the recommendations of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council. (Attached) The Council concluded that, in addition to esthetic effects on teeth, fluoride could cause adverse health effects. Since these conclusions appeared to be at odds with the Surgeon General's statement that "no sound evidence exists which shows that drinking water with the various concentrations of fluoride found naturally in public water supplies in the U.S. has any adverse effect on general health," it was necessary to request clarification from the Office of the Surgeon General.

It should please you to know that we have received word from the Office of the Surgeon General indicating that the medical panel's review has been completed and it has been transmitted to the Surgeon General. Thus we would expect his decision shortly. As soon as that response has been received, you will be notified of the Surgeon General's recommendations and of this Agency's intentions in response to the South Carolina petition.

Sincerely yours,

William A. Whittington

Rebecca W. Fanwer
Acting Assistant Administrator
Office of Water (WR-556)

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