

THE AUSTRALIAN FLUORIDATION NEWS

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US Court Postpones Fluoride Ruling

The US Federal Court heard the case against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from June 8 - 17th. Instead of giving a ruling, the judge told the Fluoride Plaintiffs and EPA to work together to find a solution. The next review is on August 6th and it could take months more for an outcome.

Background

The US Congress passed the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) in 1976 but until now, no citizen group had been able to get a case to trial with a citizen petition.

In November 2016, a number of groups (the plaintiff) including Food and Water Watch, Fluoride Action Network and Moms Against Fluoridation presented a Citizens' Petition to the EPA under the TSCA Act.

The Petition requested EPA "to protect the public and susceptible subpopulations from the neurotoxic risks of fluoride by banning the addition of fluoridation chemicals to water," and use its authority to stop the addition of fluoridation chemicals to water supplies due to significant research indicating that fluoride is neurotoxic at doses within the range in fluoridated communities.

In 2017, after the EPA denied the Citizen Petition, a suit was filed in federal court in San Francisco.

The June 2020 Hearing

Judge Edward Chen (the Court) heard the case by video conference from June 8th - 17th.

The Plaintiff's case is that fluoride is a neurotoxin; that it poses a risk at levels found in fluoridated areas, and thirdly that it is an unreasonable risk.

The plaintiffs selected four experts all involved at the forefront of fluoride toxicology. Howard Hu MD, MPH, ScD worked on the groundbreaking Bashash studies (2017, 2018). Bruce Lanphear MD MPH is the EPA's expert on lead and has contributed to three of the key fluoride studies. Kathleen Thiessen PhD was an author on the National Research Council (NRC 2006) report on EPA standards and has researched fluoride literature extensively in risk assessment. Phillippe Grandjean MD, ScD, is the EPA's go-to-guy for mercury. He pioneered the Benchmark

Dose, the amount of fluoride per day (0.15 mg) that reduces IQ by one point. He summed up the science:

"With a reasonable degree of scientific certainty, I therefore consider the elevated levels of fluoride exposure in the US population as a serious public health concern."

The EPA's first witness was Joyce Donohue PhD, who has worked at the EPA since 1996 but only had studies that showed not safety but fluoride's harm to pregnant women.

Rather than call in-house experts, the EPA called Ellen Chang ScD and Joyce Tsuji PhD from services company "Exponent". The corporation is known for defending chemicals, including agent orange, glyphosate and fluorides such as PFAS (which is contained in fire-fighting foam).

Casey Hannan, Director of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Division of Oral Health stated that his Division's focus is to promote the benefits of fluoride to prevent tooth decay but not test it for safety. None of the EPA's other experts had rigorous studies showing safety.

The Court advised the EPA that under TSCA they don't have to prove causation as they normally would; instead in this case, only whether fluoride is a risk.

The human evidence of neurotoxicity includes two large, government-funded, well-designed, long-term, prospective cohort studies published since the initial petition was considered by the Court in 2017. The Court noted that strong science on fluoride neurotoxicity is accumulating.

Not covered by the trial but essential to know is that there's no safe level of fluoride. It's cumulative over a shortened lifetime, affecting bones, teeth and organs (eg. kidney). When given a chance to vote, Australians vote fluoride out.

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“Pro-fluoride” Studies

Chris Neurath, Research Director for the Fluoride Action Network discussed the two studies used by the EPA in a video “The Studies That EPA Presented At Trial”.

Neurath states the EPA did not present evidence in the trial that clearly showed that fluoride did not lower IQ. The EPA presented two controversial studies, one on humans and another on animals.

The Broadbent (2015) study in (artificially fluoridated) New Zealand found no reduction in IQ, but the study had serious problems, one being there were very few kids (only 100 of the 1000) that lived in non-fluoridated areas, near Dunedin.

The study did not control for fluoride supplements, which could result in more fluoride than from fluoridated water. Tea drinking is common in New Zealand but was also not taken into account in this study. Further, the ground water in the non-fluoridated area was highly corrosive, with high levels of lead (which itself causes a drop in IQ) but lead also was not controlled for in the study.

In the animal study, a rat species was chosen despite there being no neurotoxic effects on this rat and the rat is almost never used in studies, so that was a surprising choice. There were other problems with this study.

The Ruling is Deferred

After final arguments concluded, Judge Chen surprised everyone by deferring the ruling, while asking the EPA and the plaintiffs to discuss a solution that would satisfy both. Neither party liked the idea.

Michael Connett, lead attorney for the plaintiffs, explained that it is a citizens’ suit and has taken almost four years and considerable effort and expense. The legal team is working pro bono, and their expert witnesses testified from a “public service duty”. Connett asserted it might not be possible to do it all over again, and that more important, in the meantime millions of babies in the USA and children suffer continuing harm.

EPA’s US Justice Department attorney Debra Carfora explained that, by law, EPA must respond to a petition within 90 days, and that it takes a minimum of three years for EPA’s risk assessment process. Reevaluating fluoride, this time focused on risk, would take several years minimum.

The Court emphasised to the plaintiffs that if its verdict is appealed to a higher court, there is the possibility that the verdict could be over-turned, not on the evidence, but over the grey area of the “standing” of the plaintiffs to bring suit.

Conclusion

While the science showing that fluoride poses an unacceptable neurotoxic risk was compelling to the court, the legal “standing” of the case is important.

The plaintiffs included a range of people with a personal stake in the matter: harms from fluoride. These harms needed to be shown to the court to be caused by fluoride. This was not as easy, as multiple factors could cause such things as headaches in plaintiffs.

The judge suggested to the plaintiffs to resubmit their case and the EPA to review it within 3 months, a much shorter time than usual. It’s uncertain how it will go, possibly taking several months or even into next year. Or the judge may rule on the case in these next few months.

This EPA trial is not the first court case to put fluoridation in the spotlight. In the 1950s farmers sued for fluoride damage to crops and livestock and won. In 1978, Justice Flaherty in the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, ruled to stop fluoridation “because it causes cancer”. He also later said:

“it is my sincere hope that the government of Australia will review all of the evidence that was developed in a lengthy trial before me, before imposing toxic Sodium Fluoride at one part per million on a helpless public.” (5th September 1979)

As a result of this 1978 case, the prevalence of fluoridated communities decreased in the USA for a number of years, while politicians, media and the venal fluoride waste industry continued pumping out their propaganda, and gradually the public fell into complacency and forgot.

This highlights the importance of not just winning the court case, but also having more people aware and educating politicians, media and everyone that fluoride is not a wonder drug. It’s toxic like lead and arsenic.

It’s a participatory sport, like a tennis match. If we don’t hit the ball back, we lose. For some reason the umpire hasn’t noticed that for a long time that the fluoridators keep hitting the ball into the net, the stands and the (fluoridated) drinks cart. Now an umpire is noticing.

There are relatively few fluoride pushers and so many more of us. When politicians receive a certain volume of communications on a subject (including the simple but powerful ‘My Will’ letters) they become very afraid of losing their hot seat and start to take action too.

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Some Reputable Info Sources on Fluorides and Health:

Book: Chris Bryson, “The Fluoride Deception” (2004)
Book: Dr Bruce Spittle, “Fluoride Fatigue” (3rd Edn, 2009)
Book: Dr Yiamouyiannis: “Fluoride: The Ageing Factor”(3rd Ed ’93)
Book: Dr Philip Sutton: “The Greatest Fraud: Fluoridation” 1996
AFN: Past issues of *The Australian Fluoridation News*
DVDs: Fluoridegate & “Fluoride: Poison on Tap” (on Youtube)
FAN: www.fluoridealert.org/researchers/health_database
ResearchGate: www.researchgate.net/profile/Geoff_Pain
Fluoride Journal: www.fluorideresearch.org
GreenMedInfo: greenmedinfo.com/toxic-ingredient/fluoride

More studies show fluoride causes brain damage

Sixty five studies now show fluoride's neuro-toxic effects. We have reported on some of these studies previously but here we recap the recent key studies as momentum builds toward ending Fluoridation.

Bashash (2017) - Pregnancy and Fluoride

As we have reported previously, the Bashash study in Mexico city found that the more fluoride a mother was exposed to during pregnancy, the lower the intelligence of her offspring.

This was a 12 year, multi-million dollar study funded by the US government agencies, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS).

The study authors came from a variety of prestigious universities. It was published in Environmental Health Perspectives, but received very little media coverage.

This was the first study to investigate whether pre-natal exposure to fluoride affects the foetus.

The study compared 300 mother-child pairs. This was the first study to track and compare fluoride measurements for individuals through time rather than compare the community as a whole.

The level of fluoride was measured in the mother's urine during pregnancy.

IQ was determined at age 4 and also between 6-12 years of age. For every 1 mg/l (equivalent to 1 part per million) increase in the mother's urine fluoride level, the children lost an average of 5-6 IQ points. This is a very large effect.

These effects would be also relevant in other fluoridated countries including Australia.

But the American Dental Association (ADA) were quick to say the study's finding was not applicable in the United States. In their Press Release (19 Sep 2017) they did not offer any explanation other than the usual few words of fluoride being "effective". Curiously the ADA did not use the word "safe".

Green (2019)- Pregnancy and Fluoride

The Green (2019) study, titled "Association Between Maternal Fluoride Exposure During Pregnancy and IQ Scores in Offspring in Canada" replicated the Bashash study. It made further improvements in methodology and received similar results, although the 4.5 point IQ drop (for every 1 mg/L was only found in boys. The study authors had also collected records for the mothers' total fluoride intake in the community, the total ingestion of fluoride per day, and found the IQ drop for both boys and girls.

Prof Connett of FAN suggests that this could be because boys are more susceptible in the womb, while girls are more sensitive once they're born, but this is yet to be determined.

Again, the NIH funded this study. JAMA Pediatrics journal knew how contentious the subject of fluoridation was and published the study only after doubling the peer review process and making sure there were no errors.

The Editor of JAMA Pediatrics offered advice to pregnant women to "avoid fluoridated water". This study rocked the JAMA and the scientific community and had widespread media attention around the world.

National Toxicology Program (Draft 2019)

The United States National Toxicology Program (NTP) released its draft report quietly in September 2019 stating that *"fluoride is presumed to be a cognitive neuro-developmental hazard to humans."*

It continued that *"this conclusion is based on a consistent pattern of findings in human studies across several different populations showing that higher fluoride exposure is associated with decreased IQ or other cognitive impairments in children."*

The NTP study was sent to the National Academies of Science (NAS, nationalacademies.org) for review. NAS has closed hearings scheduled for August, October and Nov 2020.

Riddell (2019) - ADHD

In 2015, Malin and Till compared the Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) prevalence in children aged 4-17 compared with the amount of fluoridation in their state. Data from 2003, 2007 and 2011 showed that the more fluoride, the more ADHD. **Bashash (2018)** also found an increase in ADHD with higher maternal fluoride exposure.

The NIH funded the Riddell study (which included Malin and Till). This study showed a 284% increase in ADHD in fluoridated areas compared with non-fluoridated areas in a national sample of Canadian children. **That's nearly a three-times higher risk of ADHD. For every 1mg/L increase in fluoridated tap water there is a 600% higher risk of ADHD.**

Till (2020) - Formula Fed Infants

The IQ of Canadian bottle fed infants were compared between fluoridated and non-fluoridated areas.

The study (with Green & Lanphear) found that in fluoridated areas the fluoride reduced intelligence by nine IQ points for each 1 mg/L increase in fluoride in the tap water.

Another measure of IQ is the Performance Scale IQ (also known as non verbal) and this study showed a drop of 19 IQ points, a major and devastating effect.

The authors recommend that *"In the absence of any [dental] benefit from fluoride consumption in the first six months, it is prudent to limit fluoride exposure by using non fluoridated water or water with lower fluoride content as a formula diluent."*

In Australia with 1.0 ppm (1 mg/L) the rate of fluoride in formula is 250 times higher than in mother's milk.

What does an IQ drop of 5 points mean?

With an IQ drop of five points, the normal distribution curve shifts to the left. The average IQ is 100, the drop brings the average to 95, which most people wouldn't notice. But at the ends of the IQ spectrum, we halve the number of very gifted kids and double the number of intellectually impaired.

This effect of the IQ drop could be passed on successively to future generations, leading to a population less able to think and function in society: at work, home and elsewhere. As fluoridation has been practised for 50 to 75 years in some areas, multiple generations will be affected already.

Conclusion

Do we still have the IQ to understand these implications and the importance of removing these brain-damaging industrial fluoride wastes from our water supply?

“Health” agencies in fluoridated countries have been sloth-like to get these warning messages to parents. They may be more concerned with continuing their fluoridation disposal “program” than with damaging the IQ of our kids.

To a newcomer it can seem quite strange that Australia has not done any studies investigating fluoride’s effects on IQ or comparing fluoride exposure with ADHD prevalence.

The fluoride waste disposal industry long ago captured the main players (governments, their health departments, academia and related industries) who instead of protecting children and society have been protecting those industries.

On reviewing these North American studies, how could any decent politician, bureaucrat (including pro-fluoride fluorocrats) recommend anything other than stopping fluoridation, removing the fluoridation equipment and embarking on a new approach to reduce dental decay?

Brief News

Letter from a Former Tea Drinker

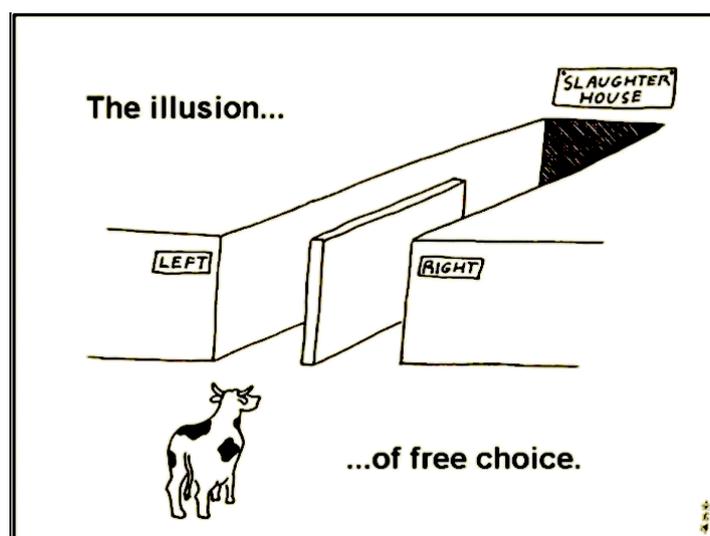
Following a previous issue AFN 2019 #4 on Green Tea (and tea drinking generally) we received this note:

“With sincere thanks, as via your news I discovered why tea, which I drank regularly, was causing me severe illness, an illness GPs [General Practitioners] could not explain.”

Queensland Election: Sat 31 October 2020

This is an opportunity to remove the ‘dead wood’ from Queensland’s lower house of Parliament who do the bidding of their political party but not the people of their electorate. Like other states, Queensland’s democracy has been corporatised.

Queensland’s Upper House (Legislative Council) has been dormant since 1922. Without an Upper House, bills can never become law. Can Queensland find a way back to democracy?



Beware the “left-right” **economic paradigm** (though it’s fine to lean left or right). Consider adding the more important “authoritarian-libertarian” **social paradigm** at a right angle to the “left-right” one. (See www.politicalcompass.org). Where do you stand on that **social** spectrum? When totalitarians get into power (whether they are communist left or fascist right), it can

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lead to democide, the biggest cause of death in the 20th century. e.g. Mao, Stalin, Hitler, Pol Pot, etc. Keep dictators out.

This is a great opportunity to let your “wanna-be” state polities know what you want. Otherwise, how would they know? The simplest way is with a “My Will” letter. i.e. “It is My Will that ...” and then tell them. e.g. “fluoridation be stopped immediately in all of Queensland”. You could list other instructions to your representatives and candidates. Anyone can do this. It’s best to spread the information and get a group involved. It doesn’t even need to be election time. Give it a go!

Quotes

Dimitri A Christakis, MD, MPH, Editor, JAMA Pediatrics, discussing the *Green (2019)* study [Maternal Fluoride & IQ]:

“The traditional teaching when I was going through residency in my early professional career was that fluoride was completely safe, all these people that are trying to take it out of the water are nuts, its the best thing that’s ever happened for children’s dental health, and we just need to push back and get it into every water system... So when I first saw this title my initial inclination was ‘What the hell?’”

Dr William Hirzy, formerly VP of the US EPA Union (which in 1997 voted to oppose water fluoridation) speaks on fluoride:

“If this stuff gets out into the atmosphere, it’s a pollutant, if it gets into the river, it’s pollution, if it gets into a lake, it’s pollution, but if it goes straight into your drinking water system, it’s not a pollutant - that’s amazing!”

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