

Comments Before the President's Council of Advisors

On Science and Technology – May 20, 2016

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HONORABLE COUNCIL MEMBERS:

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION MATERIAL THAT IS GERMANE TO THE LEAD-IN-DRINKING WATER ISSUE, CURRENTLY OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST TO CONGRESS, PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, AND THE PUBLIC AT LARGE.

A RECENT LENGTHY ARTICLE BY BRADY DENNIS IN THE *WASHINGTON POST* OF MAY 6, 2016 ADDRESSED THE ISSUE, FOCUSING ON PROBLEMS WITH THE EPA LEAD AND COPPER RULE.

UNMENTIONED IN THIS OTHERWISE COMPREHENSIVE PIECE IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LEAD LEACHED INTO DRINKING WATER AND THE CHEMICAL USED IN 90% OF FLUORIDATED WATER SYSTEMS, FLUOROSILICIC ACID. THIS RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN KNOWN BY EPA, LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AND OTHERS IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMUNITY FOR OVER A DECADE, BUT IT HAS NOT BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED NOR ACTED UPON IN SPITE OF ITS SIGNIFICANCE.

I CANNOT PROVIDE A DETAILED TREATMENT OF THIS SUBJECT IN THE BRIEF TIME I HAVE TODAY, BUT ONE IS AVAILABLE, WRITTEN BY MICHAEL CONNETT, AND IS AT THE FOLLOWING URL:

http://fluoridealert.org/articles/fluoridation_flint_lead/

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS, CITED BELOW AND DISCUSSED AT LENGTH IN THE MICHAEL CONNETT ARTICLE, HAVE POINTED OUT THAT FLUOROSILICIC ACID IS A POTENT LEACHER OF LEAD FROM LEADED BRASS PLUMBING FIXTURES AND LEAD SERVICE LINES, AND THAT ITS USE IN FLUORIDATION SYSTEMS INCREASES BLOOD-LEAD LEVELS IN CHILDREN COMPARED WITH AN ALTERNATIVE FLUORIDATING AGENT, SODIUM FLUORIDE, OR IN CHILDREN DRINKING UNFLUORIDATED WATER.

GIVEN THE WIDE SPREAD EXISTANCE OF LEAD SERVICE LINES IN COMMUNITIES USING FLUOROSILICIC ACID, IT WOULD BE A SIMPLE EXPEDIENT FOR LOWERING LEAD LEACHING AND CHILDREN'S BLOOD LEAD LEVELS TO STOP ADDING THAT PARTICULAR CHEMICAL TO DRINKING WATER, WHETHER OR NOT ANTI-CORROSION MEASURES SUCH AS ADDITION OF ZINC PHOSPHATE ARE IN PLACE.

AFTER ALL, LEAD PHOSPHATE PARTICLES CAN AND DO RELEASE FROM THE DEPOSITED SOLIDS AND FIND THEIR WAY INTO DRINKING WATER AT THE TAP.
BETTER TO NOT HAVE LEAD LEACHED FROM THE METAL IN THE FIRST PLACE.

REFERENCES

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