EPA Urged to Ban Brain Toxin

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luoride Action Network (FAN) is among a coalition of environmental, medical and health groups urging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ban the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies.

The EPA has been served with a petition that includes more than 2,500 pages of scientific documentation detailing the risks of water fluoridation to human health. The petition notes, "the amount of fluoride now regularly consumed by millions of Americans in fluoridated areas exceeds the doses repeatedly linked to IQ loss and other neurotoxic effects."

The EPA is authorized, under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) to prohibit the use of a chemical that poses an unreasonable risk to the general public or particularly vulnerable populations.

EPA's Own Risk Assessment Shows Water Fluoridation Poses an Unreasonable Health Risk

The petition urges the EPA to exert their authority to prohibit fluoridation additives in drinking water, noting that their own Guidelines for Neurotoxicity Risk Assessment shows:

Neurotoxicity is a hazard of fluoride exposure

The reference dose that would reasonably protect against neurotoxicity is "incompatible with the doses now ingested by millions of Americans in fluoridated areas"

"In fact," the petition states, "the amount of fluoride now regularly consumed by many people in fluoridated areas exceeds the doses repeatedly linked to IQ loss and other neurotoxic effects; with certain subpopulations standing at elevated risk of harm, including infants, young children, elderly populations and those with dietary deficiencies, renal impairment and/or genetic predispositions."

As for fluoride's effects on the brain, in 2014 Lancet Neurology released a study, authored by a Harvard doctor, among others, that classified fluoride as a developmental neurotoxin. Also, in 2012, Harvard researchers clearly showed that children exposed to fluoride in drinking water had lower IQs, by an average of seven points, in areas with raised concentrations.

Fluoride's neurotoxicity is an especially unreasonable risk, the petition notes, because fluoride's predominant effect on tooth decay is related to topical application, not oral ingestion:

"Since there is little benefit in swallowing fluoride, there is little justification in exposing the public to any risk of fluoride neurotoxicity, particularly via a source as essential to human sustenance as the public drinking water and the many processed foods and beverages made therefrom."

Even the *National Research Council* reviewed the evidence, at the EPA's request, and concluded in 2006 that fluoride has the ability to interfere with brain function.

Nearly 200 fluoride/brain studies have been conducted since, and research published in Lancet Neurology classified fluoride as one of 12 chemicals known to cause developmental neurotoxicity in humans (others include lead, mercury and PBCs).

"The existence of so many human studies on fluoride neurotoxicity highlights the urgent need for a diligent risk assessment, per EPA's Guidelines, to ensure that the general public, and sensitive subpopulations, are not ingesting neurotoxic levels," the petition explains.

Ongoing Neurotoxicity Studies

FAN's relentless effort to get the U.S. government to take fluoride's neurotoxicity seriously is beginning to pay off. For many years, American regulatory and research agencies have failed to finance studies seeking to reproduce the many studies undertaken abroad that have found harm to the brain, but that is changing: There is a new National Institute of Health funded fluoride/brain study funded to the co-authors of the important study that found a correlation between fluoridation and increased ADHD rates in the U.S. This is what Robert Fleming of Canadians Opposed to Fluoridation (COF-COF) wrote: "This is possibly the most important recently evolving development in water fluoridation to date."

