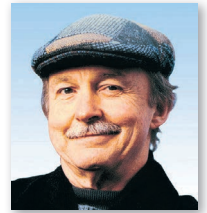


# Unprecedented Lawsuit Could End Water Fluoridation in US Based on Neurotoxicity Studies

By Stuart Cooper, Fluoride Action Network



Bill Wolfe DDS

The Fluoride Action Network (FAN), along with a coalition of environmental and public health groups has filed a complaint in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in response to their denial of our petition seeking a ban on water fluoridation. We believe this lawsuit is an unprecedented opportunity to end the practice once and for all in the U.S., and potentially throughout the world, based on the well-documented neurotoxicity of fluoride, according to FAN's attorney and adviser, Michael Connett: "This case will present the first time a court will consider the neurotoxicity of fluoride and the question of whether fluoridation presents an unreasonable risk under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)."

## Lawsuit Background: EPA Served with Citizen's Petition

On November 22, 2016, FAN filed a petition calling on the EPA to ban the addition of fluoridating chemicals to the drinking water.

FAN presented the FDA with more than 2,500 pages of scientific documentation that fluoride is a neurotoxin, with evidence demonstrating that fluoride has little benefit when swallowed, and therefore any risks from exposing people to

fluoride chemicals in water are unnecessary.

The EPA responded: "The petition has not set forth a scientifically defensible basis to conclude that any persons have suffered neurotoxic harm as a result of exposure to fluoride in the U.S. through the purposeful addition of fluoridation chemicals to drinking water or otherwise from fluoride exposure in the U.S."

As many independent scientists now recognize, fluoride is a neurotoxin. The question, therefore, is not if fluoride damages the brain, but at what dose. While EPA quibbles with the methodology of these studies, to dismiss and ignore these studies in their entirety for methodological imperfections is exceptionally cavalier.

## New Study Quantifies Fluoride's Potential to Lower IQ in Children

Some children in the U.S. may be consuming enough fluoridated water to reach doses of fluoride that have the potential to lower their IQ, according to William Hirzy, Ph.D., a former senior scientist at the EPA.

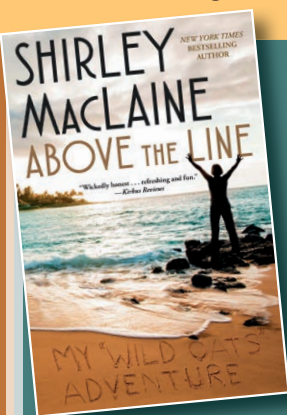
Current federal guidelines encourage the addition of fluoride chemicals into water supplies to reach 0.7 milligrams per liter (mg/L). Hirzy followed EPA risk assessment guidelines to report: "The effect of fluoride on IQ is quite large, with a predicted mean 5 IQ point loss when going from a dose of 0.5 mg/F/day to 2.0 mg F/day."

Many children in the U.S. commonly consume these levels of fluoride from all sources (water, food, dental products, medicines, air pollution, etc.). Hirzy explains the significance of this study: "The significance of this peer reviewed risk analysis is that it indicates there may be no actual safe level of exposure to fluoride. Groups of children with lower exposures to fluoride were compared with groups having higher exposures. Those with higher exposures performed more poorly on IQ tests than those with lower exposures."

One well-conducted Chinese study indicated that children exposed to 1.4 mg/day had their IQ lowered by 5 IQ points. Current average mean daily intakes among children in the United States are estimated by EPA to range from about 0.80 mg/day to 1.65 mg/day. Fluoride may be similar to lead and mercury in having no threshold below which exposures may be considered safe."

Typically, such information would be a cause for major concern, but unfortunately the EPA has consistently not applied the normal rules of risk assessment to fluoride, as it has also with its dismissal of our petition. For too long, EPA has let politics trump science on the fluoride issue. FAN welcomes having these issues considered by a federal court, where scientific evidence has a better chance of being weighed objectively.


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