



July 10, 2017

This is an update to the information mailed to all District residents on June 27th captioned "Fluoride in Drinking Water--Frequently Asked Questions". Both this update and the prior information are also being posted on the District's website: <http://www.sonterramud.org>.

What actions has the District taken since the Board's June 19 meeting to address resident concerns regarding fluoride levels in the drinking water that exceed 4 mg/L?

1. Well No. 1, the well affected by elevated fluoride levels, has been kept off line.
2. The District has instituted weekly testing of the fluoride levels in the water supply. The weekly test results will be posted on the District's website. To date, with Well No. 1 offline, the weekly samples have confirmed that fluoride levels continue to be below 4 mg/L.
3. The District has begun construction of a Trinity Aquifer well, which is anticipated to produce water with lower fluoride levels than the District's existing Edwards Aquifer wells.
4. The District has continued to work with representatives of the Lone Star Regional Water Authority on the financing of, easements for and construction of the water pipeline that is necessary to provide the District with a surface water supply.
5. The District has continued to research water filtering and treatment options. The District has also contacted the City of Jarrell about obtaining supplemental water from the City, which has lower fluoride in its water supply. Obtaining City water would enable the District to reduce the fluoride levels in the District's water supply by mixing it with City water. The amount of water that could be made available and the cost of obtaining the water, including the cost of the water line that would be necessary, have not yet been determined.

What actions is the District planning to take in the short term to address resident concerns about the possible effects of fluoride levels over 2 mg/L on children under the age of nine?

Although the District is not required to provide an alternate source of drinking water, the District recognizes that there is concern about the possible effects of fluoride levels over 2 mg/L on the teeth of children under the age of nine. Therefore, the District is in the process of obtaining proposals for the installation of a Reverse Osmosis treatment station within the District to enable residents who wish to provide their children with an alternate drinking water supply to do so more conveniently.

Does using the District's water for bathing, showering or swimming have any health or safety risk?

No, elevated fluoride levels have no effect on people using the water for purposes other than drinking.

Has the District contacted any other water systems with elevated fluoride levels?

Yes, the District has contacted two larger Texas cities which, according to TCEQ, have fluoride levels that are similar to those of the District: the City of Midland, population 111,147, TX-1650001, which has a reported fluoride level averaging 3.78 mg/L and the City of Kyle, population 22,317, TX-1050002, which has a reported fluoride level averaging 3.30 mg/L. (See nccd.cdc.gov.)