

From: Contact Legal
Sent: Wednesday, 17 July 2024 9:20 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Response: Fluoridation of water- Official Information Act request

Dear [REDACTED]

Please see below the response to your official information request.

Council may publish this response on our website, if it is considered in the public's interest to do so. Any of your personal or identifying details will be removed. Please contact me with any questions or comments you may have regarding this.

1. What parts of the region under the council's jurisdiction are fluoridated?

The water supply of Thames is the only one in the District to which fluoride is added.

2. What fluoride chemicals are used to fluoridate the water supply?

Hydrofluosilicic Acid (HFA)

This has been used since approximately 2009 and is currently displayed in front of the HFA storage unit in the water treatment plant. Used as the alternative fluoridising agent when it was found out that NaF can potentially be used to make explosives.

3. What level is water fluoridated at?

Current fluoride dosing results are,

Average 0.59 mg/L fluoride in treated water

Maximum 0.79 mg/L fluoride in treated water

Minimum 0.2 mg/L fluoride in treated water

The water treatment plant will filter to waste if the fluoride goes above 1.00mg/l or below 0.20mg/l so max Value cannot exceed 1.00mg/l.

4. How frequently is the level of fluoride in the water tested?

Hourly. The dose rate is continuously online monitored via DEPOLOX 5 analyser

5. Who performs the testing?

Water Treatment Plant has an analyser for online continuous monitoring

Water Treatment Operator undertakes weekly calibrations of the probe.

Watercare sampling is undertaken monthly.

6. Where is the wastewater discharged?

Backwash from WTP is discharged into the Wastewater network and flows to the Waste Treatment Plant

7. Is there a Resource consent for the discharge of fluoridation chemicals?

The Wastewater Discharge Resource Consent AUTH140148.01.02 held by TCDC does not contain a requirement to test the water for fluoride.

8. Can you provide the section of the consent that permits the fluoride discharge?

The consent provides for wastewater discharge quality limits for parameters determined by Waikato Regional Council. Fluoride is not a parameter Waikato Regional Council have included in the wastewater discharge consent.

9. Is there a Resource Consent held by the council to add fluoridation chemicals to the community water supplies?

Waikato Regional Council Water Take Resource Consents are in place to protect the environment by limiting the volume and rate of take of raw water only. Community Water Supplies are protected via Drinking Water Standards.

10. How much per annum is spent on fluoridation chemicals?

Between 1/4/2023 to 23/02/2024 fluoride costs \$2,829.76 excl GST

11. How much per annum is spent on implementing water fluoridation?

Costs are

- Chemical costs as per above
- Operator cost is already covered in lump sum so no additional cost.
- Testing costs are already covered in lump sum so no additional cost.

12. How much per annum is spent on testing the levels of water fluoridation?

Testing costs are already covered in lump sum.

13. How much does it cost per Tonne of Hydrofluorosilicic Acid?

\$658.07 per 1000L excl GSRT

14. How many tonnes of Hydrofluorosilicic Acid is added into the environment?

Total amount purchased between 1/4/2023 to 23/02/2024 is 4300 litres.

Ngā mihi | Regards

Legal Assistance (LGOIMA)

Thames-Coromandel District Council
Private Bag 1001, 515 Mackay Street, Thames
p: 07 868 0200
e: contact.legal@tcdc.govt.nz
w: www.tcdc.govt.nz



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