



Memorandum

Memorandum No: 25-071

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*

DATE: June 16, 2025

SUBJECT: Fluoride Update

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform the City Commission that effective July 1, 2025, the City of Fort Lauderdale (City) will discontinue adding fluoride to the public water systems it serves. With the May 15, 2025 signing of Senate Bill 700, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis enacted a new state law mandating that fluoride be excluded from water treatment operations effective July 1, 2025, except where otherwise provided. This action will also affect the neighboring municipalities and areas the City supplies water to through bulk sale including Oakland Park, Wilton Manors, Tamarac, Davie, and Port Everglades.

Enacted in 1972, Broward County Code [Sec. 34-120](#) in part states, “Each water system...shall cause fluorides...to be introduced into its distribution system.” Florida Administrative Codes, FAC 32-555.325 and FAC 62-550.310, provide guidance on the recommended Fluoride range (0.7 mg/L to 1.2 mg/L) and maximum dosages. The City has been adding fluoride as required by Broward County, and in compliance with the Florida Administrative Code (FAC). Fluoride is added as hydrofluorosilicic acid at both the Fiveash and Peele-Dixie water treatment plants.

Pursuant to FAC, the City also includes in the monthly operating report (MOR) information on the amount of chemical added, as well as the effective dosage on the finished water served. The MOR’s are submitted to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) which has primary responsibility for regulating water systems and water treatment plants in Florida, as delegated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

While “fluoride” is not mentioned explicitly, Senate Bill 700 prevents the “use of certain additives in a water system.” Fluoride can be considered an additive prohibited under this new law. It is important to note that fluoride is a naturally occurring mineral found in small amounts in the Biscayne Aquifer, which is the City’s main source of water.

Please note that after July 1, 2025, there could be a small residual amount of fluoride in the finished water supply (average range 0.2 mg/L to 0.3 mg/L) produced from the Fiveash Water Treatment Plant because the lime softening treatment process at Fiveash is not effective in removing fluoride from the source water. In contrast, the nanofiltration membrane technology at the Peele-Dixie Water Treatment Plant is effective in removing fluoride from the source water.

Once operational, the new Prospect Lake Clean Water Center (PLCWC) will utilize nanofiltration membranes and ion exchange technologies, which is very effective in the removal of fluoride. As a result, beginning September 2026, when the PLCWC is in full production and Fiveash is decommissioned, the entire potable water supply by the City is anticipated to be free of fluoride.

If you require any additional information, please contact Talal Abi-Karam, P.E., Acting Director-Public Works at TAbi-Karam@fortlauderdale.gov or call 954-828-5299.

c: D'Wayne M. Spence, Interim City Attorney
David R. Soloman, City Clerk
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor
City Manager's Office
Department Directors