

Jan 29, 2025 – HB 81- Fluoride Amendments

House Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee

As the County doesn't own water, it cannot dictate the water agencies spending priorities, yet water agencies were not invited to the table when the decision to put the question on the ballot was fast-tracked, legislatively¹ and specific statements were made to the voters by the Health Departments and their Boards regarding fluoride² and the cost,^{3, 4} both of which were later revealed as factually inaccurate.

The vote to fluoridate passed as an unfunded mandate and although the State allowed for minimal construction standards, water agencies and the cities were forced to implement, quickly, as the attorney for the proponents insisted that 'all it takes is a tough shed and a squirt gun'.

*Prior to the vote, the Salt Lake Health Department posted this statement on their website "Is it possible for a fluoride spill to occur at a treatment plant and cause the water supply to receive a toxic dose of fluoride? No, it is a mechanical impossibility."*⁵

Partial List of Spills and Accidents in Davis and Salt Lake County, Utah 2005- 2022 – most of which are infrastructure failure

***2005 -March [Davis County]** "The pump hose had come off the piping so it could just whip around...it was squirting [undiluted stock solution fluorosilicic] acid into the room rather than water..."

***2005 – March [Salt Lake County]** "A railcar leaking [hydrofluoric acid, nitric acid and sulfuric] acid forced the closure of major highways and the evacuation of more than 6,000 people"

***2005 October [Davis County]** Fluoridation workshop for water operators in Davis and Salt Lake Counties
"I talked to a [water] operator yesterday [Oct 12, 2005]...he's gotten a bad batch [of sodium fluoride] from China" Tom Reeves, Consultant awarded a sole source contract by Davis County Health Department

***2007 – August 31 [Salt Lake County]** The Mountain Dell treatment plant in Parleys Canyon, Salt Lake County, Utah at 5:30am "Nearly 1500 gallons of fluoride [undiluted fluorosilicic acid] overflowed the fluoride tank, a portion of which flowed into Parleys Creek, through Tanner Park, Sugarhouse Park, Hidden Hollow and the Jordan River" They were fined by DEQ for an illicit discharge of 300 gallons of acid, which they flushed with 54 million gallons of untreated water from the reservoir.

***2012 - December [Davis County]** A water operator had an accidental exposure to undiluted fluorosilicic acid – which off gasses' hydrogen fluoride. His lungs were damaged. It was determined to be operator error, and he was sent back for training – It's been since reported he was denied Workman's Compensation.

***2014 – February [Davis County]** "A release of approximately 82-140 gallons of [undiluted stock solution] fluorosilicic acid occurred at a pump house when a pump failure caused a tote to overflow. The overflow resulted in product running down the driveway and into the gutters and entering a catch basin."

***2014 – September [Davis County]** "Tipped tanker with fluoride chemicals close Clearfield and Layton Road, the vehicle was transporting the chemical fluorosilicic acid to a large Clearfield water tank at the intersection of State Road 193 and University Park Boulevard around 11 a.m. when it tipped partially over on a steep embankment... Hill Air Force Base, the Weber State University-Davis campus and Clearfield High School were affected by the gridlock"

***2019 - February [Salt Lake County -Sandy City]** a fluoride feeder in a seasonal well malfunctioned, sending undiluted acid into the public water system – Significant fines and litigation.

***2022- September [Davis County]** 'An equipment malfunction caused an overfeed of fluorosilicic acid that injects into the main pipeline than serves water to the city. A letter from DEQ said, "This is the second fluoride incident in the last year."⁶

As the cost of the fires in California are being calculated, and claims submitted, insurance companies are asking, 'why should we pay for your mistakes?'

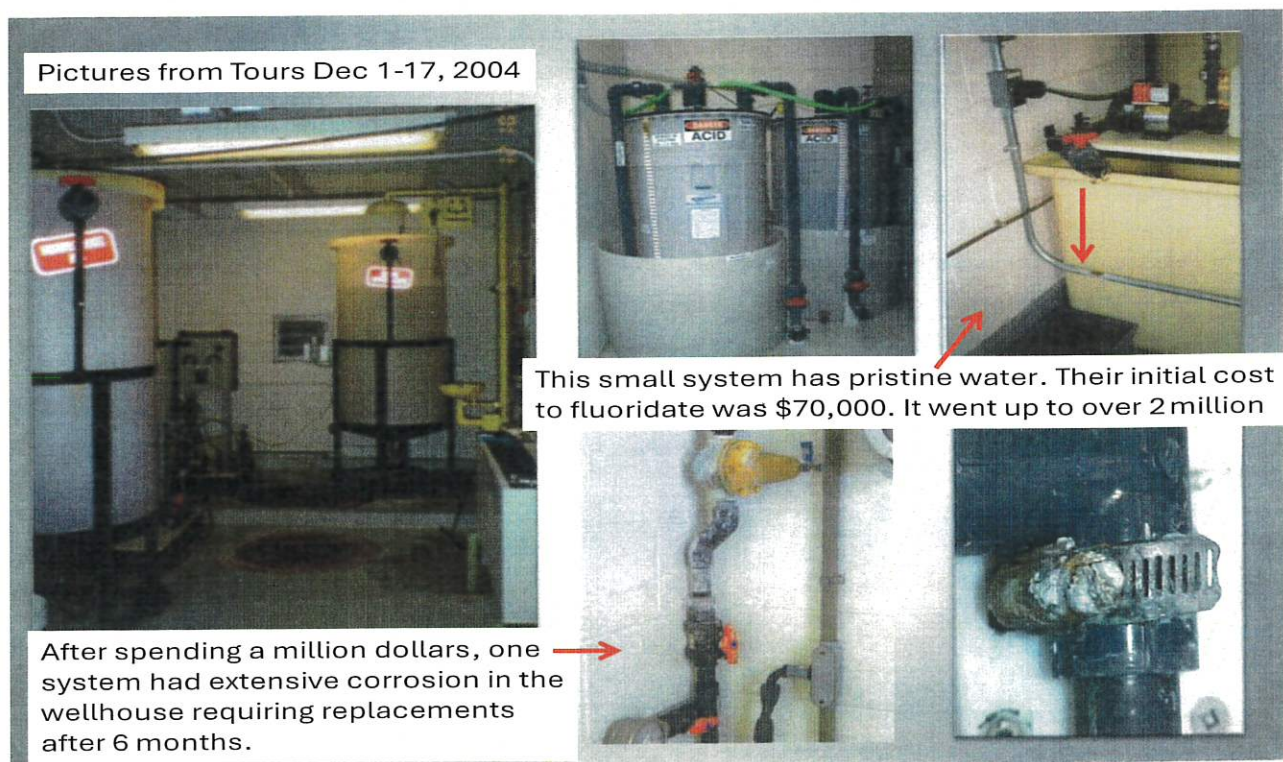
Fluorosilicic acid and sodium fluoride are heat sensitive, and hydrogen fluoride gas is released when they are overheated. Spray water on it, and you have hydrofluoric acid raining down on whoever is holding the hose.

As many wellheads require fluoridation infrastructure, and wellheads are in source water protection zones as well as in neighborhoods, across the street from schools, adjacent businesses and next to walking paths through forests, what are the remediation and response plans for each site? FEMA has already declared earthquakes to be Utah's greatest natural threat. Have Firefighters, HAZMAT and First Responders been included in that planning, as well?

In conclusion,

The sales tax is reported as down more than 20% this past month, with grant money, like COVID, having expired as of Dec 31, 2024, unless assigned to an active contract. January 28th, 2025, President Trump attempted a freeze on federal assistance, grants and loans. Counties continue to invite development, and the demand for water increases. It takes millions of dollars to manage those water systems and in Utah, water fluoridation alone has cost water agencies millions of dollars.

As there is no blank check to cover all the costs of maintaining, repairing or upgrading fluorosilicic acid infrastructure or replacing everything with infrastructure specific to sodium fluoride, would the taxpayers happily agree to a substantial rate increase, even though in September of 2024, in the TSCA a Federal Judge ruled that 'fluoride poses an unreasonable risk' to the children?



¹ 2001 SB 206 Task Force on the Implementation of Water Fluoridation. <https://le.utah.gov/~2001/htmldoc/sbillhtm/SB0206.htm>

² 2009- Evaluating Fluoride in Public Water Systems prepared by the Salt Lake Health Department for Waterwatch of Utah, Mayor Peter Caroon and County Council – pg 3 "General considerations about fluoride toxicity "Elemental fluoride can be found in many different forms, each having a different toxicity based on the molecular structure of the chemical. In other words, not all chemical forms of fluoride are created equal.... fluorosilicic acid is classified as a hazardous corrosive material.....This illustrates the final point: The fact that a chemical is toxic or reactive does not necessarily mean it is a hazard to human health. In all cases, the concentration or the dose consumed is the deciding factor that determines if it is a poison or a treatment. CDC and EPA have conducted extensive research to determine at what levels fluorine is safe."

³ Letter dated March 31, 2003 to Davis County Commissioners McConkie, Page and Cragun, Health Department Director Lewis Garret and Gerald Hess, Davis County Attorney from Layton City, Utah Mayor Jerry Stevenson " While as Mayor and Council, we do not take a stand one way or another as to the pros or cons of fluoridation, it quickly became apparent, as the City proceeded with compliance with the Health Department's order to fluoridate, that the costs of fluoridation to the citizens of Layton and Davis County were far greater than the costs portrayed by the proponents, and most offensively, by the Department itself, when it clearly knew better. While we recognize that our strong objection does not constitute a legal reason for preventing Layton City's exorbitant expenditure for fluoridation, by way of comment, the City Council wants to make it clear that the City of Layton and its citizens are morally offended by the purposeful misinformation and inappropriate activities of the County Health Department, relative to the fluoride issue. It appears, that in all aspects, the end justified whatever means were necessary to see that this mandate was imposed on other government entities, regardless of cost."

⁴ Sept 28, 2000 Fluoridation Cost Information prepared by Davis County Clerk Auditor Steve Rawlings

⁵ 2000 -Salt Lake Valley Health Department website- The Very Best of 101 Fluoride Questions (hard copy available) no longer posted

⁶ *Incident reports, to include Waterwatch of Utah - GRAMA Requests and Responses