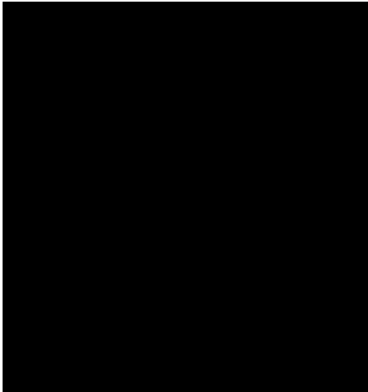


February 1, 2008

ENV1175IT-2007-120



**RE:** Application to review existing policies or the need for new policies and/or regulations under the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002* as they relate to inorganic fluorides in drinking water.  
**EBR File Number 07EBR014.R**

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This letter is in response to your Application for Review, received November 13, 2007, requesting a ministry review of the existing policies or regulations under the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002* (SDWA) as they relate to inorganic fluorides in drinking water. The ministry is aware of the competing concerns surrounding the fluoridation of drinking water. The protection of Ontario's drinking water supplies is of paramount importance to the ministry and municipalities across the province.

Ministry staff have completed their consideration of your request in the context of section 67 of the *Environmental Bill of Rights, 1993* (EBR) as well as current ministry programs. I have concluded that a review of the existing policies and regulations under the SDWA that pertain to the addition of inorganic fluorides to drinking water will be undertaken.

Health Canada is revising the technical support document for the Canadian Drinking Water Quality Guideline for fluoride and is expected to conduct a national consultation within the next two years. The revision to the rationale document is led by the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Drinking Water (CDW). Ontario participates on the CDW and will consider comments under the application before a provincial consultation is undertaken through the EBR Environmental Registry. The provincial consultation will be carried out at the same time as Health Canada conducts the national consultation. During the consultation period, the Province welcomes all comments on the use of fluoridating agents in water, the health impacts of fluoride, and other concerns that the public and stakeholders may wish to bring forth.

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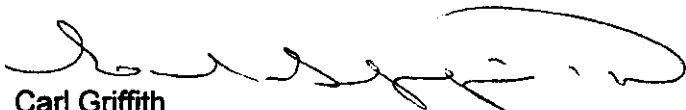


  
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These comments, as well as the materials you have provided in your review application, will be considered by the Province in setting new policies regarding fluoride in drinking water.

In the event that you have any questions, please contact Satish Deshpande, Team Leader – Drinking Water Standards, Standard Development Branch, at (416) 327-4689.

Yours truly,



**Carl Griffith**  
**Assistant Deputy Minister**  
**Environmental Sciences and Standards Division**

- c: Keith West, Assistant Deputy Minister (A), Drinking Water Management Division, Ministry of the Environment**  
**Dale Henry, Director, Standards Development Branch, Ministry of the Environment**  
**Peter Lapp, Executive Assistant, Office of the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario**