




Utility Services Department

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 213
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

To: Jim Liesenfelt, Interim County Manager

Thru: Tad Calkins, Interim Assistant County Manager

From: Edward Fontanin, Utility Services Director 

Subject: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation (CEER) 2025019

CEER #2025019, titled Fluoride in drinking water, was received by the County by David F. DeLuca

Citizen Statement:

In November, Florida Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo advised local governments across the state on Friday to stop adding fluoride to their community water supplies. He called it "public health malpractice." Ladapo based his claim on a study from 2023 undertaken by researchers at Tulane University which studied the effects of naturally-occurring fluoride in drinking water in wells in a rural area of Ethiopia. There are no water treatment plants there, so the study had no data on added fluoride. Ashley Malin, an assistant professor in the University of Florida's Epidemiology Department who has studied fluoride's effects in pregnant women. She led a study published in May that was based in Los Angeles and suggested that fluoride exposure during pregnancy was linked to an increased risk of neurobehavioral problems in children. That study was undertaken in Canada and Mexico. The studies cited by Ladapo and Malin were not undertaken in the United States, and neither study considered the role of environmental factors in those countries, nor did they consider diet and genetics, which are the two most determinative factors in developmental health. Based on Ladapo and Malin's claims, all fluoride poses a potential risk. Neither Ladapo nor Malin suggested removing all fluoride from drinking water, so their claims are rendered baseless.

Citizen Recommendation:

The public deserves transparency from its elected officials and their advisors. My recommendations are as follows: Ask Ladapo and Malin to amend their positions on fluoride by publicly stating exactly how much fluoride in drinking water is safe, and at what level does it become toxic. - There are several methods of adding fluoride to drinking water. The county should hold a symposium in which each method is evaluated for cost, efficacy, and public safety. The results should be made easily available to the public. - Palm Bay recently decided to ban the

addition of fluoride after giving citizens the opportunity to voice their opinions. However, Palm Bay voted at the same time to add liquid ammonia to the drinking water without giving citizens the opportunity to voice their opinion. No city or town should vote on matters of public health without allowing the citizens to weigh in.

Staff Analysis:

The address provided by Mr. DeLuca is within the water utility service boundary of the City of Palm Bay. Thus, matters associated with the potable water fall under the jurisdiction of the City of Palm Bay.

All potable water producers in Florida are subject to the same Federal and State requirements:

Federal – Title 40 Chapter 1, Subchapter D - Water Programs

Florida Statute – Chapter 403 – Environmental Control

Florida Administrative Code - 62-550 – Drinking Water Standards, Monitoring, and Reporting

Florida Administrative Code – 62-560 – Requirements for Public Water Systems That Are Out of Compliance

The decision to fluoridate a water supply is made by the State or local municipality and is not mandated by EPA or any other Federal entity. Brevard County Utility Services does not add fluoride to potable water.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended the Board of County Commissioners reject Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2025019 because the State Surgeon General is out of the county's jurisdiction and this CEER does not enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of Brevard County Government.

CC: Frank Abbate, County Manager

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 11, 2025 12:54 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026019

Recommendation # 2026019

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026019 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name	David F DeLuca
Address	619 Cedar Side Circle NE, Palm Bay FL 32905
Phone	(609) 903-7775
Email	dfdeluca@outlook.com
Alternate Email	dfdeluca@outlook.com

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID	2026019
Recommendation Title	Fluoride in drinking water
Areas Affected	Brevard County
Department Affected	PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Current problem	<p>In November, Florida Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo advised local governments across the state on Friday to stop adding fluoride to their community water supplies. He called it "public health malpractice." Ladapo based his claim on a study from 2023 undertaken by researchers at Tulane University which studied the effects of naturally-occurring fluoride in drinking water in wells in a rural area of Ethiopia. There are no water treatment plants there, so the study had no data on added fluoride. Ashley Malin, an assistant professor in the University of Florida's Epidemiology Department who has studied fluoride's effects in pregnant women. She led a study published in May that was based in Los Angeles and suggested that fluoride exposure during pregnancy was linked to an increased risk of neurobehavioral problems in children. That study was undertaken in Canada and Mexico. The studies cited by Ladapo and Malin were not undertaken in the United States, and neither study considered the role of environmental factors in those countries, nor did they consider diet and genetics, which are the two most determinative factors in developmental health, Based on Ladapo and Malin's claims, all fluoride poses a potential risk. Neither Ladapo nor</p>

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Recommendation

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Attachments

No Documents were attached.

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.