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The Authoritative Resource on Safe WaterSM

NewsRelease

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Statement from American Water Works Association on Fluoride Report Issued by National Research Council

DENVER – *On Wednesday, March 22, the National Research Council (NRC) of the National Academy of Sciences released “Fluoride in Drinking Water: A Scientific Review of EPA’s Standards.” The report states that fluoride levels of 4 mg/L or higher may pose certain health risks. Community fluoridated water typically contains between 0.7 mg/L and 1.2 mg/L of fluoride, far less than levels examined by the NRC. Jack Hoffbuhr, executive director of the American Water Works Association (AWWA), issued the following statement concerning this report.*

“The drinking water community takes nothing more seriously than its responsibility to safeguard public health. To that end, we pay close attention to the best available science. The NRC report is an important addition to the growing body of research on health effects and benefits associated with fluoride.

“The NRC report examines the increased health risks associated with high levels of fluoride in drinking water, typically from natural sources. The optimal level of fluoride that results from community water fluoridation is far below the level of concern identified in the NRC report. AWWA, along with the American Dental Association and the U.S. Public Health Service, continues to support fluoridation of water supplies in a safe, effective, and reliable manner that includes adequate monitoring and control of fluoride levels.

“The drinking water community is committed to providing high-quality water that maximizes public health protection. As part of that ongoing commitment, we look forward to working with the EPA and others to review the fluoride standard in light of the NRC report.”

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AWWA is the authoritative resource for knowledge, information, and advocacy to improve the quality and supply of water in North America and beyond. AWWA is the largest organization of water professionals in the world. AWWA advances public health, safety and welfare by uniting the efforts of the full spectrum of the water community. Through our collective strength we become better stewards of water for the greatest good of the people and the environment.