

Internal Sierra Club Document describing conversation with author Douglas B. Dey of the Northwest Fisheries Service in Seattle regarding fluoride and his Paper. (personal Identifications removed)

Date: Thu, 13 Jan 2005 18:39:31 -0800

Subject: Fluoridation issue

To: OREGON-LEADERS@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG

xx who is the political chair for the xx Group has been digging into Fluoridation issues. I thought you might find this of value with future deliberations.

I just finished a very interesting conversation with a co-author Douglas B. Dey of the Northwest Fisheries Service in Seattle to an often quoted research paper. I reached him at the NWFS offices at 206-860-3200 x3237

I read his article Evidence for Fluoride Effects on Salmon Passage at John Day Dam, Columbia River, 1982 - 1986 and had questions. He was very helpful and the following were comments or answers to my questions.

1. His research did not say that the fluoride levels that he studies, higher concentrations due to the aluminum smelter, were killing the salmon. What his research concluded was that the fluoride had "a significant negative effect on passage time and survival of adult Pacific salmon". The survival referred to the delay which might cause the salmon to die before they reached their spawning grounds.

2. His research concluded that the fluoride levels did cause confused behavior which delayed the salmon much longer than normal in their passage of the John Day Dam. He readily admitted there could have been other conditions that caused the delay, however, the fluoride levels was his conclusion.

3. He referred to an article written Nick Budnick of the Willamette Weekly, March 28, 2001. He did talk to Nick, however, he felt that Budnick grossly overstated and or misrepresented what Dey had reported. He emphatically stated that he did NOT use the term, stoned salmon. He felt that Budnick exaggerated the issue to make it more tantalizing to readers.

4. He states that he has been out of that research for years and cannot be relied on as a current expert.

5. He did make reference to Paul C. Engelking, U of O, who had consulted with him regarding the fluoride issue at the time of his research. A search for a telephone number in Eugene for Engelking was unsuccessful. I have yet to call the U of O Chemistry department to find Engelking.

6. When I spoke to him about the dangers of possible trace heavy metals that might be in the fluoride product used in fluoridation he said that due to their weight, they would probably sink near where the water was emptied into the river, if it were a problem.

7. He also concurred that there is **no such thing as pure water** in our rivers or streams, that all water sources have naturally occurring elements in various degrees.

In closing I asked whether he had an opinion on whether fluoridation, in his view, should be banned. He stated that he grew up in California where the water was fluoridated, raised his children in Washington, where the water was fluoridated and none of them suffered cavities. When I asked him directly whether he would be opposed to fluoridation because of the possible harm to salmon he answered, **no**.

I am available to discuss this further if you would like.

Local Sierra Club Officer