# NUTS AND BOLTS OF WATER FLUORIDATION

TOM REEVES, P.E. TGR CONSULTING, LLC

## Fluoridation and Public Health

- Deliberate Upward Adjustment of a Natural Trace Element, Fluorine
- Present in All Waters and Soils as the Compound Fluoride
- Extensively Studied

#### Water Fluoridation

- First Started in January, 1945 in Grand Rapids, MI
- Today 71% of all Americans on Public Water Systems Have Access to Fluoridated Water

#### Fluoride: A Bone Seeker

- 96% of the Body's Fluoride is Found in the Skeletal System [including the teeth]
- Occurs Mostly During Growth and Development
- Can Vary

## Fluoride: A Bone Seeker

- In the Skeletal System the Fluoride Concentration can be:
  - In Non- Fluoridated Areas several Hundred ppm of Fluoride
  - In Fluoridated Areas several Thousand ppm of Fluoride

#### Fluoridated vs. Non-Fluoridated and the "Halo Effect"

- Even in Non-Fluoridated –Non-Adjusted Water Systems People Receive some Benefits of Fluoride
- Receive Fluoride from Food and Beverages Packaged in Fluoridated Areas - the "Halo Effect"

## FLUORIDE CHEMICALS EQUIPMENT

#### Fluoride Compounds

- Three Most Common Compounds Used in the U.S.
  - Sodium Fluoride (NaF)
  - Sodium Fluorosilicate (Na<sub>2</sub>SiF<sub>6</sub>)
  - Fluorosilicic Acid (H<sub>2</sub>SiF<sub>6</sub>)

#### Sødium Fluoride (NaF)

- First to be Used
- White Odorless Salt
- Powder or Crystalline Form
- Produced by Neutralizing Fluorosilicic Acid with Caustic Soda (NaOH)

## Sodium Fluorosilicate (Na<sub>2</sub>SiF<sub>6</sub>)

- Old Name "Sodium Silicofluoride"
- White Odorless Crystalline Powder
- Produced by Neutralizing Fluorosilicic Acid with Sodium Carbonate [Na CO<sub>3</sub>]

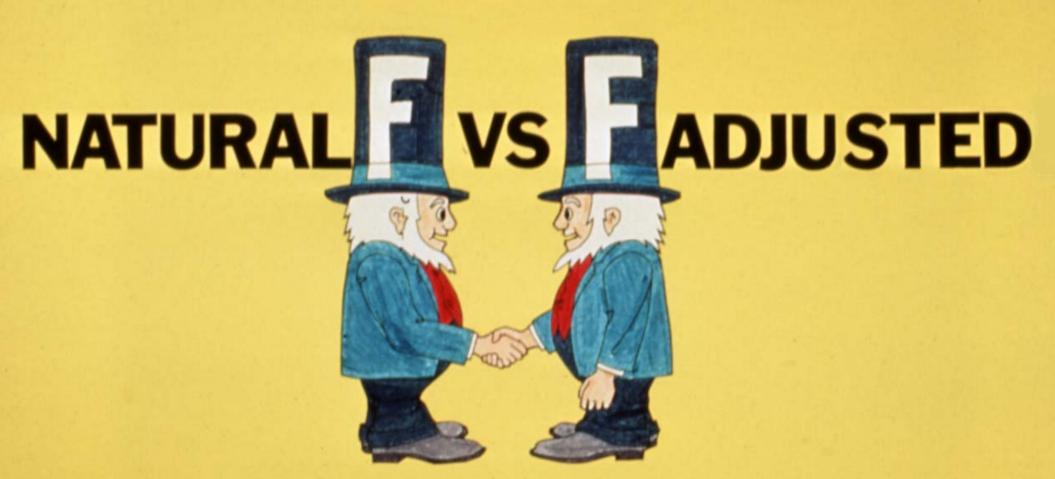
#### Fluorosilicic Acid (H<sub>2</sub>SiF<sub>6</sub>)

- Straw-colored, Transparent
- Fuming Corrosive Acid
- Byproduct of Phosphate Fertilizer Manufacturing Process

#### Fluoridation Feeders

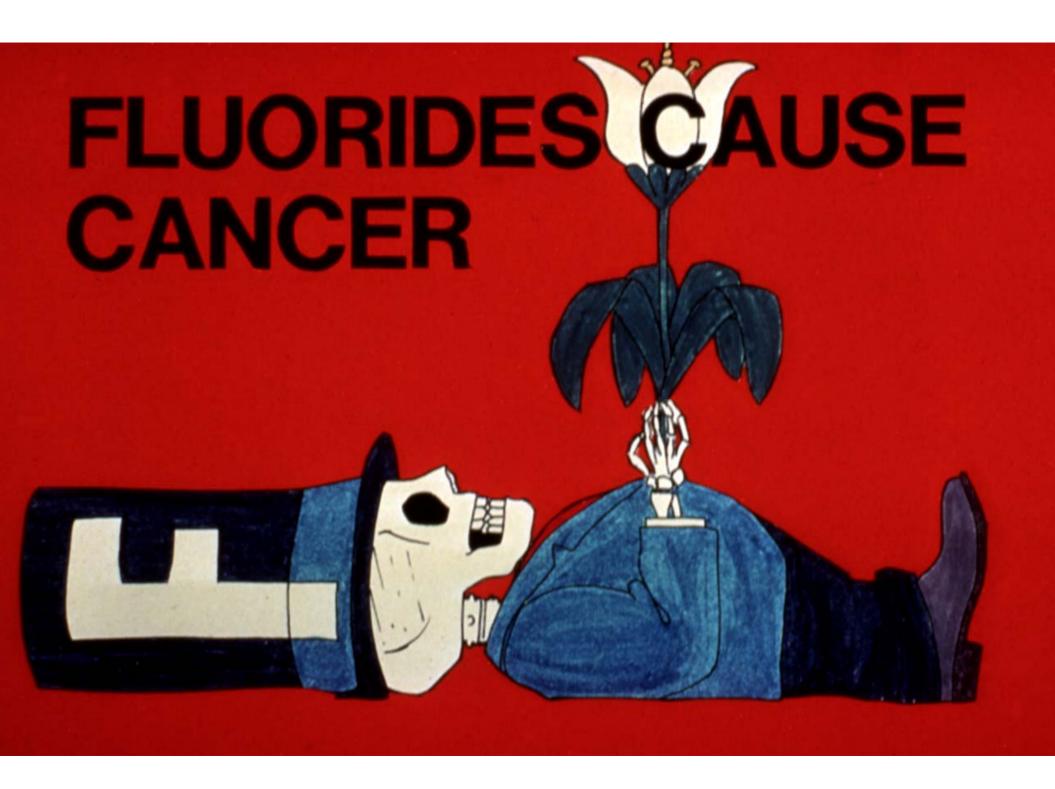
- Fluoride Chemicals Fed as Liquids
- Fluoride Feeders Same as for Other Water Supply Chemicals
- Fluoride Saturator Only Exception

# Allegations Made by Opponents of Fluoridation

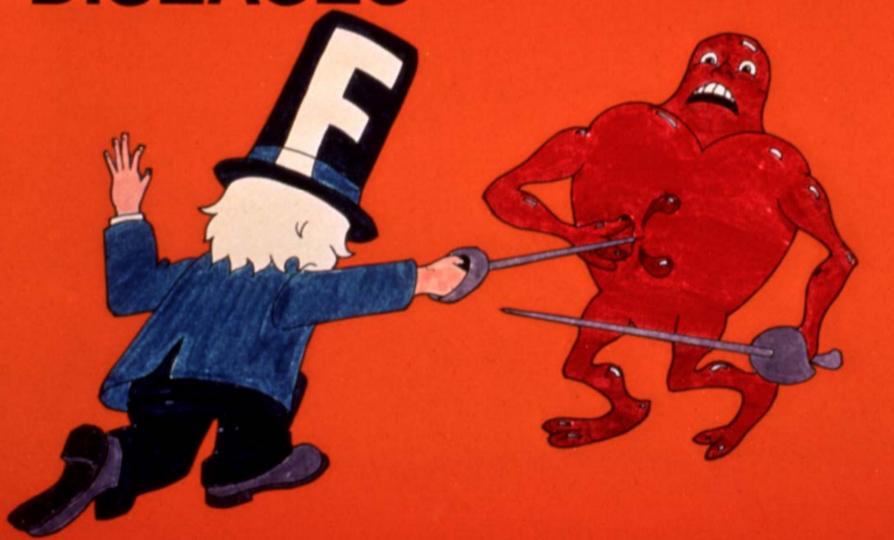




#### FLUORIDES CAUSE CORROSION



## FLUORIDATION CAUSES DISEASES



## Anti-Fluoridationist Tactics

- Attach Water Fluoridation to the Latest Health Issue
- Cancer[Dr. Y, Dr. Kennedy, etc]
- Low IQ in Children (Neurotoxicity) [Mullinex, China Studies]
- Increase Children Uptake of Lead (Silicofluorides) [Coplan & Masters]
- NRC Report

# Anti-Fluoridationist Tactics [continued]

- Fluoride Toxicity [EPA Union]
- ATSDR Toxicological Profile [Frech]
- Radioactivity of Fluorosilicic Acid [Glasser]
- Pass State or Local Law Requiring the FDA to Approve Fluoride Chemicals

## Anti-Fluoridationist Tactics

- Challenge All Pro Statements
- Claim Fluoride is Not Effective
- Debate
- Try to get a "Vote of the People"
- Etc, Etc, Etc

#### Water Fluoridation

- Under challenges like never before
  - Anti F are very focused
  - Anti F on the internet
  - Very connected
  - Especially strong west of the Rockies

## FLUORIDATION COSTS

EQUIPMENT CHEMICALS INSTALLATION

#### Water Fluoridation

- Has increased in the world
  - South Korea
  - South Africa
  - Japan
  - UK

#### Summary

- Water Fluoridation is still safe and effective
- It is continuing to expand especially in the U.S.

# Discussion

### THE END