

## **Board Decision Will Reduce Water System Costs by \$2.1 Million per Year; Chicago to Save about \$1 Million/Year**

On September 17, 2015, the Board finalized rules that will reduce costs to Illinois community drinking water systems by at least \$2.1 million per year, of which about \$1 million will accrue to the City of Chicago. (Amendments To Primary Drinking Water Standards: 35 Ill. Adm. Code 611, R15-23)

The Board's decision lowers the level of fluoride added to most Illinois drinking water supplies by an average of 30%. The action is in response to new guidance from the US Department of Health and Human Services indicating that lower levels of fluoridation enhance public health while still providing the desired benefits of reducing tooth decay, particularly in children.

Based upon the Board's revised rule, the required concentration of the fluoride ion will be 0.7 milligrams per liter (mg/L), reduced from the previous level of 0.9 to 1.2 mg/L. The Federal agency issued its recommendation on May 1, 2015.

The Board's revised rules will go into effect upon final approval by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and publication in the Illinois Register.

Opinions and orders of the Board, hearing transcripts, and other documents in rulemaking records are posted on the Board's Web site and may be downloaded from the Web without charge. Hard copies may be obtained from the Clerk's Office upon payment of reproduction fees as prescribed by Section 6 of the Freedom of Information Act [5 ILCS 140/6].