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March 18, 2000 4 37 '00 MAR 23 P2 :41

Dockets Management Branch
HFA-305
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fisher's Lane, mm. 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear Sir or Madam,

I urge you to develop protocols for appropriate methods of informing customers of the contents of bottled water. Customers need accurate and comprehensive labelling to convey information about bottled water. Labels should indicate if the water is: 1) supplied from a spring or municipal water source and 2) contains fluoride and in what amount e.g. ppm. Additionally, labelling should determine if 1) the fluoride was added and from what supplier or 2) the fluoride is naturally occurring

I have tried to identify fluoride content by calling manufacturers, a tedious and often inaccurate process. One bottled company billed their water as natural but after contacting them I learned it came from a municipal water source. Another company assured me that there was no fluoride content in their product but when I requested a brochure, the fluoride content was listed. Yet, another company stated the fluoride content was minimal and after further communication identified that fluoride amount as .245 ppm which might be considered minimal, however, my family consumes large amounts of water each day, as much as 8 glasses or more, and our daily ingestion could potentially go way beyond that .245 ppm.

Labels need to identify fluoride content on bottled water in order that consumers both minimize fluoride ingestion and lower the risk of developing other fluoride-related health risks. Consider the following concerns:

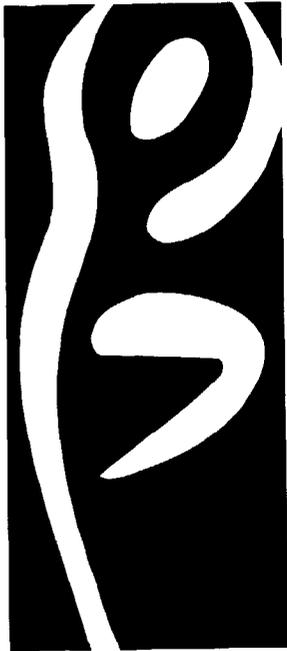
- 1) *Ingested fluoride does not prevent tooth decay and may in fact promote decay.*
- 2) *Fluoride intake has been linked to other health problems including but not limited to osteosarcoma, osteoporosis, and hip fractures.*
- 3) *We consume undetermined levels of fluoride vis-à-vis those foods that contain and/or were processed with fluoridated water.*
- 4) *Fluoride is ranked between arsenic and lead in terms of toxicity, and as is the practice with those materials, exposure should be avoided.*
- 5) *Increase of fluorosis both in fluoridated and unfluoridated communities is due to the combined fluoride content of toothpastes, fluoride rinse programs, and those beverages and foods containing and/or processed with fluoridated water.*

By eliminating or reducing our intake of known fluoride sources, we will minimize our exposure to risk factors linked to fluorosis and other medical problems. I urge you to develop methods for labelling fluoride content on all bottled water so that my family and I may make informed decisions when we purchase and/or consume such products.

Sincerely,


Sharon N. Schnall

99P-0795



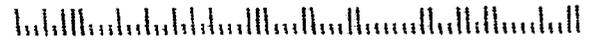
Ms. Sharon Schall
16505 Heatherwood Ln
Chagrin Falls OH 44023-4443



~~THE REPERTORY PROJECT~~
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