

Monday, 11 July 2022

OIA IRO-222

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@gwrc.govt.nz

Kia ora [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Official information request for documentation relating to fluoride.

I write regarding your official information request dated 18th March 2022. You requested:

1. Asset Management Plan for the Fluoridation Equipment - including asset condition reports - including both the dosage and monitoring aspects. I assume this is part of the larger Asset Management Plan for the Te Mārua Water Treatment Plant. So the full asset management plan (with asset condition assessments) is fine.
2. Once you have compiled the information, I would like a graph showing Fluoridation levels from water leaving Te Mārua for the past five years (I figure this is long enough to show the baseline data as compared with the data once the issues kicked in)
3. And finally, I would like a copy of the engineering report from February this year which identified the safety and operational concerns at both Te Mārua and Gear Island.
4. Can we please have the name of our new [communications] contact circulated.

On Wednesday, 20 April 2022 we provided an answer to your fourth question.

See attached in **Appendix A** answers to your questions above, and in **Appendix B** paragraphs that paint a picture of the data we have provided you.

For further reference, the independent inquiry into the cessation of fluoride is available on our website, and you can find that report here: <https://www.wellingtonwater.co.nz/your-water/drinking-water/fluoride-inquiry>

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi

[REDACTED]

**Group Manager, Network Management Group
Wellington Water Ltd**

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Appendix A

Question 1: Asset Management Plan for the Fluoridation Equipment - including asset condition reports - including both the dosage and monitoring aspects. I assume this is part of the larger Asset Management Plan for the Te Marua Water Treatment Plant. So the full asset management plan (with asset condition assessments) is fine.

Answer...

Here is the link to our regional service plan: <https://www.wellingtonwater.co.nz/publication-library/advice-and-work/regional-service-plan/>

These are high level planning documents and do not provide details of individual chemical systems at the water treatment plants.

The fluoride asset maintenance plans for our facilities is managed through our maintenance planning system and we can provide the activities that sit within this.

We commissioned a report on the fluoride facilities and this has been included in our email to you; **'Raveen Report'**.

Question 2: Once you have compiled the information, I would like a graph showing Fluoridation levels from water leaving Te Marua for the past five years (I figure this is long enough to show the baseline data as compared with the data once the issues kicked in)

Answer...

Please refer to the **'Raveen Report'** for fluoridation levels at Te Mārua as well as the Daily Average Fluoride data for all plants in the **'Daily Average Fluoride'** spreadsheet we have included in our response to you.

Question 3: And finally, I would like a copy of the engineering report from February this year which identified the safety and operational concerns at both Te Mārua and Gear Island.

Answer...

Please see attached in our email response to you the **GWRC Fluoride Report**.

Appendix B

Fluoride Analyser data

This data set comprises readings from our fluoride analysers that continuously monitor water in the pipeline downstream of the dosing points at each water treatment plant before it enters the network. The data is broken into six financial years (the historical extent of these data), each displayed on a different tab. The left-most column on each tab gives the date that the data points apply to. The other columns give the average reading for the given day by water treatment plant. Note that there are two analysers each at Gear Island, Te Mārua and Wainuiomata treatment plants. The readings from the analysers tell us whether or not the fluoride concentration in the water is within the optimal range of 0.7 – 1.1 mg/L. The analysers are also used to detect dosage levels above the maximum acceptable limit so that we can act to prevent water with high fluoride concentrations entering the network.

Compliance data

To demonstrate to our regulators and other stakeholders that the water we produce at our treatment plants satisfy drinking water standards, we regularly collect samples of fluoridated treated water for analysis at an independent and certified laboratory. Fluoride results from this sampling and analysis program from 2007 onwards are provided in separate files, one for each of the four treatment plants. The fluoride concentration corresponding to the date in the leftmost column is given in the fourth column from the left. Note that the data includes lab results from after the dates that the Te Mārua and Gear Island dosing facilities were shut down. The fluoride detected in the water from Te Mārua is the background fluoride naturally present in the source water. The recent fluoride levels in the Gear Island data reflect the mix of fluoridated and unfluoridated water coming from Waterloo and Wainuiomata treatment plants that would normally receive additional fluoride from the Gear Island dosing facility.