

September, 2015

Water Fluoridation Quality Award

Southwest Water Authority
State of North Dakota

The Division of Municipal Facilities announced today that Southwest Water Authority has been awarded a Water Fluoridation Quality Award from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Fluoridation is the adjustment of fluoride in the water to a level that is optimal for preventing tooth decay. The award recognizes those communities that maintained a consistent level of optimally fluoridated water throughout 2013.

For 2013, a total of 2,184 water systems in 33 states received these awards, including 51 in North Dakota.

“Community water fluoridation continues to be proven to prevent tooth decay throughout people’s lives,” stated Katherine Weno, DDS, JD, Director, CDC Division of Oral Health. “Since CDC began our fluoridation awards program in 2002, an increasing number of states have worked closely with their community water systems to ensure proper management of their water fluoridation programs.”

Community water fluoridation has been recognized by CDC as one of 10 great public health achievements of the 20th Century. Currently, nearly three-quarters (74.6 percent)—or 210 million people—served by community water systems have access to optimally fluoridated tap water. CDC recommends water fluoridation as a safe, effective, and inexpensive method of preventing decay. In fact, every \$1 invested in fluoridation saves at least \$38 in costs for dental treatment.

Southwest Water Authority Manager/CEO Mary Massad states “Our number one priority has always been and will always be quality water for our customers. Helping customers prevent tooth decay, by maintaining optimal levels of fluoridation, is another benefit of water from the Southwest Pipeline Project.” She added, “I am very pleased to accept this honor on behalf of our 15-member Board of Directors and dedicated staff who all work very hard to ensure consistent performance of our water quality including healthy levels of fluoridation for good oral health to our customers.”
