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Town of Natick • Public Works

TO: James Errickson
Town Administrator

FROM: Jeremy Marsette, P.E.
Director of Public Works

DATE: September 27, 2021

SUBJECT: Fluoride Supply Shortage – Drinking Water

Drinking water suppliers across the nation are experiencing supply chain issues with sourcing sodium fluoride for water treatment. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are aware of this industry wide issue and are working to assist water suppliers.

Natick typically adds sodium fluoride during the water treatment process, which is not required for safe drinking water but provides additional health benefits. Fluoride is a naturally occurring element in many water supplies at trace amounts. In our system, the fluoride level is adjusted to an optimal level averaging 0.7 ppm to improve oral health in children. At this level, it is safe, odorless, colorless, and tasteless. For more information on fluoride, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/index.html>.

Current estimates indicate that the Town's supply of sodium fluoride will be depleted on Saturday October 9, 2021. Once current supply has run out the fluoride treatment process will be suspended until stock is restored. The Town's vendor anticipates resupply of sodium fluoride in December 2021.

The Town is diligently pursuing all options for resupply. The supply chain for other water treatment additives utilized by the Town remains strong.

For questions related to this announcement, please contact the Public Works Water/Sewer Division at 508-647-6557 or via email at water@natickma.org.