Waterwatch of Utah

Doing our best to keep the information flowing

Davis County Commissioners Stevenson, Elliott and Kamalu August 10, 2021

As the Salt Lake Valley Health Department stated on their 2000 website 101 Best Questions about Fluoride " Is it possible for a fluoride spill to occur at the water treatment plant and cause the water supply to receive a toxic dose of fluoride?" No. It is virtually impossible...it is a mechanical impossibility" Around the same time, the lawyer for the proponent group, Utahns for Better Dental Health-Davis opined that fluoride could be added to the public drinking water supply with nothing more than a "tough shed and squirt gun."

In a letter dated July 11, 2000 Richard Harvey – Davis County Interim Health Department Director wrote "Most water systems [in Davis County] are relatively complex due to the extremes in topography, multiplicity of sources, location of sources and many other conditions." In 2010, Florence Reynolds of Salt Lake City Public Utilities stated "Salt Lake City's water system is one of the world's most complex because of the number of water sources and differences in service elevations."

Feb of 2019 Sandy City – The Paradise well hadn't been used in 3 years. The Hydrofluorosilicic acid was stored on site in a 1,000- gallon bulk acid solution tank that fed into a 30-gallon day tank from which 14 gallons was accidentally released. It was found that the setting of the fluoride dosing pump was set incorrectly and there was a faulty shower/eyewash station flow switch. For a 14 gallon overfeed, they flushed the system with 180,000 gallons of water.

April 10, 2014 - North Salt Lake hydrofluorosilicic acid spill "It appears that a feeder pump malfunctioned causing an estimated 141 gallons of acid to be discharged onto the floor of the pump room. From the pump room, it flooded into the curb and gutter of a public right of way leading into a storm drain.... We were not able to access the pump room. It appeared that the acid fumes corroded the lock making it inoperable." It would have required over 8 million gallons of water to flush a spill of that size.

Aug 31, 2007 - From 1000 to 1500 gallons of undiluted acid spilled from the Mt Dell Reservoir into Parleys Creek. They blamed it on operator error and received a fine for a 300-gallon spill which they remediated with over 17 million gallons of water.

Clearly spills are not a mechanical impossibility.

The function of the Health Department is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public. Access to safe and clean water is fundamental to that mandate. At the first Sandy City town hall meeting following the accident, Tom Ward, the public works operations manager said "I didn't know what I didn't know." Sandy City should serve as a cautionary tale that when it comes to fluoride, there can be no excuses.

We are in a severe drought. Whether water agencies elected a 'tough shed and a squirt gun 'as their fluoride delivery system or if they designed to Best Practice, at this time, no water agency can afford to divert hundreds of thousands of gallons of water from their end users to flush a system and remediate even a small spill. The Health Department has the authority to issue an Emergency and Temporary Cease and Desist fluoridating. Shut all the valves and disconnect all the pumps then thoroughly evaluate system safety, emergency response protocols, review existing policy and procedure to include complete compliance with all the relevant laws, rules and regulations. Use the time to get reasonable and rational questions asked and answered. Because accidents happen.

Respectfully submitted

LBRosenstein

Lorna B Rosenstein

RECEIVED
AUG 10 2021
BOARD OF DAVIS
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

A