



Municipality of Anchorage

P.O. Box 196650 • Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6650 • Telephone: (907) 343-4311 • Fax: (907) 343-4313 <http://www.muni.org/assembly>

Anchorage Assembly Leadership

December 12, 2021

Mark Corsentino, General Manager
Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility
3000 Arctic Blvd.
Anchorage, AK 99503

Re: Fluoride System and AMC 26.40.050

General Manager Corsentino:

We write to determine whether efforts were recently made to frustrate or interfere with your compliance with Anchorage Municipal Code section 26.40.050, which requires the general manager of the Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility to supplement the fluoride content of the municipal water supply.¹

On December 11, 2021, The Alaska Landmine published an article containing allegations that, if true, would be of significant public concern and interest.² The article's verbatim description of one of the three "incidents" is as follows:

"2. During a tour of the Anchorage Water and Wastewater Util[i]ty (AWWU) facility, Bronson and senior staff allegedly stunned AWWU employees when they interfered with or deactivated the system that fluoridates the municipal water supply. As a result, sources say, the Anchorage water supply may have gone without fluoride for several hours. Fluoride is added to municipal water by law."

¹ See Anchorage Municipal Code 26.40.050 *Fluoridation of water*:

- A. The manager of the utility is authorized and directed to continue supplementing the fluoride content of the water supply, to maintain a level of not more than 1.3 parts per million.
- B. All techniques used to apply fluoride, including testing the water before and after the addition of fluoride, determining the fluoride content, and testing for purity of the fluoride chemicals, shall, in all respects, comply with the rules and standards set by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, and the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations.
- C. The personnel who will make the necessary analyses and apply the fluoride will be state-certified water treatment operators.

² See Jeff Landfield And Paxson Woelber, "APD Chief McCoy Announced Resignation In Response To Improper Demands By Bronson Administration, Sources Claim," THE ALASKA LANDMINE (December 11, 2021), available at: <https://alaskalandmine.com/landmines/apd-chief-mccoy-announced-resignation-in-response-to-improper-demands-by-bronson-administration-sources-claim/>

To better inform the Assembly as to the truth of these allegations, and whether and what Assembly response may be appropriate, Assembly leadership now requests your response to the following:

1. Mayor On-site. Has Mayor Bronson ever visited an AWWU facility that contains systems that can affect the fluoride content of water delivered to residents by AWWU? If yes, please identify the facility, or facilities, and additionally respond to requests 2 through 5, below.
2. Date. On what date did the visit, or visits, confirmed in your response to the prior question occur?
3. Actions. For each visit confirmed in your response to question 1, please describe any actions taken by the mayor, or a member of the mayor's staff, that: (a) could have affected the fluoridation of the municipal water supply and/or compliance with AMC 26.40.050; or (b) appeared to have been made with the intent of affecting the fluoridation of the municipal water supply. For each such action described, please indicate both the particular form of that action took (e.g., turning off a switch), and the possible impact the action could have, and did have, on the municipal water system. In particular, please address whether a fluoridation system was ever "deactivated" and, if so, by whom.
4. Comments. For each visit confirmed in your response to question 1, please describe any comments made by the mayor regarding the fluoridation of municipal water.
5. Persons present. To the extent that the mayor or a member of the mayor's staff took an action or made comments that requests #3 and #4, above, ask you to describe, please identify all persons who were present and could have witnessed the action(s) or heard the comment(s).
6. General response. To the best of your understanding, what aspects of the Alaska Landmine's description of the above-quoted "incident" are inaccurate? For each such inaccurate aspect, please describe why the aspect is inaccurate and, to the extent possible, provide a description of what actually occurred.

We would appreciate receiving your responses at your earliest convenience, and not later than in advance of the next meeting of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly on December 14, 2021 at 6pm.

If you have any questions related to this request, we would be happy to discuss.

Sincerely,



Suzanne LaFrance, Chair



Christopher Constant, Vice Chair

Cc Patrick Bergt, Municipal Attorney
Amy Demboski, Municipal Manager
Dean Gates, Assembly Counsel
Assembly Members