

As a reminder to our previous notice, the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County (MAWC) will begin to supply drinking water from a new water supply line from the Greater Johnstown Water Authority (GJWA) on December 1, 2012. The drinking water supplied by GJWA is fluoridated. Customers in the following communities who currently receive their water from MAWC will be supplied with this fluoridated water; Ligonier Borough, Laughlintown, Laurel Mountain Borough, and parts of Ligonier Township.

Since there is much debate over the fluoridation of drinking water, MAWC has included links to several websites on the MAWC webpage to allow our customers to more fully research the information available on this issue including home treatment units to remove fluoride from the water. MAWC believes that the fluoride issue is a health care matter that should be decided by regulating bodies such as the EPA and the PADEP. All the water supplied by the GJWA will be within the levels set by the PADEP and EPA. MAWC will monitor the levels in the Ligonier system.

The American Dental Association (ADA) has endorsed fluoridation of community water supplies as safe and effective for preventing tooth decay. Children who drink optimally fluoridated water on a regular basis do not need to take fluoride dietary supplements. Parents of children who regularly drink MAWC's water should contact their physician or pediatric dentist about discontinuing the use of fluoride supplements for their children as of December 1, 2012.

Some home water treatments, such as reverse osmosis units, will remove fluoride, so customers should consult the water treatment manufacturer to determine if their water treatment system is removing fluoride. If so, parents should consult their prescribing dentist or physician about whether additional fluoride supplements are necessary.

Beginning on or around December 11, 2012 MAWC will be flushing the distribution system in the above communities to remove any sediment or discoloration caused by the reversed flow of water from the new water line. If you notice any discoloration of your water please run the water until it clears. We are sorry in advance for this inconvenience.

MAWC will send a follow up notice prior to the beginning of the flushing so as to remind our customers of this work. Thank you for your assistance and understanding.

For more information on drinking water fluoridation please see the MAWC website at [www.mawc.org](http://www.mawc.org) or contact your dental professional.