



Protecting, maintaining and improving the health of all Minnesotans

December 5, 2014

Hokah City Council
c/o Mr. Rodney Blank, City Administrator
Hokah City Hall
102 Main Street
Hokah, MN 55941

Dear Hokah City Council,

The Minnesota Department of Health Oral Health Program and Drinking Water Protection Section are pleased to present you with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) **2013 Water Fluoridation Quality Award**. This award recognizes those public water systems that adjust the fluoride concentration in drinking water and achieve a monthly average fluoride level that is in the optimal range for 12 consecutive months in a calendar year, as documented in the CDC Water Fluoridation Reporting System (WFRS).

CDC initiated the Water Fluoridation Quality Awards in 2002 to recognize outstanding performance in fluoridation management by public water systems. Over the past few years there has been an increase in the number of states and water systems that have achieved this recognition. For calendar year 2013, all 50 states provided census information to WFRS. Nationwide, about 43% of the eligible adjusted systems in states reporting water fluoridation quality earned this award.

Quality Awards can be a good opportunity to promote community water fluoridation and this award will provide you with an opportunity to highlight the excellent work being done by your water system. To assist you in promoting this achievement, we are providing you with a press release template that can be tailored for your community. An electronic copy of the template is available upon request.

Once again, congratulations on this outstanding effort and thank you for providing safe, dependable drinking water for your community. If you have any questions about the award or the press release, please contact either David Rindal at (651) 201-4660, david.rindal@state.mn.us or Clare Larkin at (651) 201-4230, clare.larkin@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Merry Jo Thoele".

Merry Jo Thoele, MPH, RDH
Director, Oral Health Program
Minnesota Department of Health

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Ellingboe".

Randy Ellingboe
Manager, Drinking Water Protection Section
Minnesota Department of Health

PRESS RELEASE TEMPLATE
CDC WATER FLUORIDATION QUALITY AWARDS

The Minnesota Department of Health announced that NAME OF COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEM 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 drinking water to a level that is effective for preventing tooth decay. The award recognizes those communities that achieved excellence in community water fluoridation by maintaining a consistent level of fluoridated water throughout 2013.

For 2013, a total of 2,184 public water systems in 33 states received these awards, including 119 (out of 960) in Minnesota.

“We can be proud that in Minnesota, communities are employing this effective public health measure,” says Merry Jo Thoele, State Oral Health Program Director.

“Studies show that fluoridation prevents tooth decay in all age groups, not just in children. So it is very important that communities continue to maintain their fluoridation levels.”

Community water fluoridation has been recognized by CDC as one of 10 great public health achievements of the 20th Century. CDC recommends water fluoridation as a safe, effective, and inexpensive method of preventing tooth decay. In fact, every \$1 invested in fluoridation saves at least \$38 in costs for dental treatment.

“INSERT QUOTE FROM COMMUNITY OFFICIAL”



2013

Water Fluoridation Quality Award

Hokah

State of Minnesota

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention commends this water system for its consistent and professional adjustment of the water fluoride content to the optimum level for oral health for 12 consistent months. Consistent, high-quality water fluoridation practice, as demonstrated by this water system, is a safe and effective method to prevent tooth decay, improving the oral health of community residents of all ages.

Presented by the
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
United States Department of Health & Human Services

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. J. DeLeon", is written over a horizontal line.

National Fluoridation Engineer, Division of Oral Health
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention
and Health Promotion



**Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention**
National Center for Chronic
Disease Prevention and
Health Promotion