

FLUORIDE FREE NORTHERN RIVERS

PO Box 125, Lismore NSW 2480

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ROUS WATER ACCUSED OF COVER UP ON FLUORIDE PLANT BREAKDOWNS AND OVER DOSES

A review of documents released under Freedom of Information laws on the operation of the 4 Fluoride plants within the Lismore and Ballina Council areas have revealed a failure by Rous to disclose a litany of breakdowns and fluoride overdose spikes.

Fluoride Free Northern Rivers (FFNR) have called for the plants at Corndale, Knockrow, Clunes and Dorrroughby to be immediately shut down.

FFNR has accused Rous of failing to provide any information or warning to the public arising from the serious break downs and over dose spikes that have occurred in the first 20 months of operation of the four Fluoride Dosing Plants

FFNR are allegedly claiming that Rous is in breach of the NSW Fluoride Act by not implementing a proper Emergency Response Plan.

The documents released by Rous reveal in the first 20 months of operation of at least 3 fluoride overdose spikes at Corndale, 1 at Clunes and 1 at Dorrroughby. This is in addition to 13 serious break downs and operation failures at Corndale, 3 at Clunes, 5 at Dorrroughby and 4 at Knockrow.

The list of problems include:

- Unmixed residual fluoride in a batch tank leading to two overdose spikes at Corndale
- Pipework failure leading to leaks and fractures in tanks, and dosing pumps
- Failure of safety sensors
- Failure of the circuit breaker and flow meters requiring the Corndale plant to be further modified
- Constant problems with fluoride solutions in holding tanks and pumps
- Switch failures on fluoride analyser
- Blockages to the hopper at Corndale
- Flood water ingress into the waste holding tank at Corndale

Further, plants are being shut down due to insufficient staff.

A Spokesperson for the FFNRAI Oshlack said:

“The evidence is clear that not only is water fluoridation detrimental to both human health and the environment but the operation of these dosing plants themselves are extremely hazardous.

“The released documents reveal a litany of failures and incidents in all four of the Fluoride Dosing Plants operated by Rous some causing overdosing above the NHMRC health standard.

“Rous has yet to prepare a proper Emergency Response Plan as required under the Fluoride Act or made the public aware of the truth on what is occurring in these plants.

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“It is undemocratic and disingenuous for Rous to make a decision carried on the votes of Richmond Valley Councillors to construct and operate these Fluoride Dosing plants for Lismore City Council residents.

“It is more problematic that Rous has chosen to put Community health and welfare at risk in order to save face. The situation is scandalous and this virtual cover up may be the tip of an iceberg of what is occurring around the State and country.

“We are aware that at Dungog a Fluoride spill poisoned the Hamilton River in which the water supply authority was fined otherwise there is a chilling silence around the operation of Fluoride Dosing Plants.

“The rate payers and community are paying Rous an undisclosed amount of money to operate the plants to dispose 30 tonnes of highly toxic industrial waste through the water supply per year.

In another move FFNR are still preparing a Federal Court application against selected North Coast Councils who are allegedly in breach of the Therapeutic Goods Administration Act. The filing of the case has been delayed due to another matter in the Federal Court awaiting judgement.

Inquiries

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