

<Tim.Ricks@ihs.gov>

Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2020 9:01 PM

To: Dushanka V. Kleinman <dushanka@umd.edu>;
Halliday, Christopher (IHS/HQ)

<Christopher.Halliday@ihs.gov>; Bailey, William D

<WILLIAM.BAILEY@CUANSCHUTZ.EDU>; Nick

Makrides <(b) (6)> William

Maas <(b) (6)> Bob Mecklenburg

<(b) (6)> Stephen Corbin

<(b) (6)> robert collins

<(b) (6)>

Subject: Another bombshell

Importance: High

*** Not for dissemination; Keep confidential ***

Good evening Dushanka, Chris, Bill B., Bill M., Nick,
Meck, Skip, and Steve,

One thing that is interesting about the CDO job is that just when you think everything is running perfectly, you get another bombshell. This afternoon I learned that the SG will NOT sign the fluoridation letter after all. This is after he had agreed to do it. This is all top secret, but apparently when this went to clearance NIEHS and NIDCR apparently told OSG that the NIEHS/National Toxicology Program revised monograph would be coming out to state that fluoride was definitely neurotoxic to children. What is interesting is that I speak with NIDCR (Horsford) weekly and he gave me no indication that the revised monograph was completed. In fact, it appears that NASEM is still accepting comments on the committee composition (<https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/review-of-the-revised-ntp-monograph-on-fluoride-exposure-and-neurodevelopmental-and-cognitive-health-effects>). But somehow OSG communications team told me that the NTP monograph had already been accepted for publication in JAMA, even before the NASEM review. It doesn't make sense to me that would happen, but regardless, OSG will not pull the trigger and so the SG is withdrawing the letter. I had hoped that it would be released on July 7th as I am

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speaking at the ADA 75 Symposium that evening. Not only is the SG withdrawing the letter, I have been instructed that the CDO letter that we all signed cannot include my signature either.

Needless to say, this whole thing is not only embarrassing, but a bit demoralizing. I explained to OSG that it will be a little disconnected for this SG to not sign a letter of support like his predecessors and in light of the fact that fluoridation is one of the 11 Healthy People 2030 oral health objectives and will be covered in his Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health.

Two options moving forward:

1. One of you, since you don't answer to OSG, can release the letter sans my signature, and I can give you the appropriate contacts for the release. I asked OSG if this was acceptable and they said yes. This could be done on July 7th.
2. We could just all hold off for now.

What do you think? Sorry to give you this bit of news before your holiday, but I thought this was important. Again, please keep this information TOP SECRET.

I hope you and your families have a wonderful 4th.

Tim

Timothy L. Ricks, DMD, MPH, FICD

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- Continuing Dental Education Coordinator
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