



Tufts
UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Department of Public Health & Family Medicine

February 9, 2009

Mr. Andrew DeGrace, PE
Water Quality Bureau Manager
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Water Quality Division

Dear Mr. DeGraca:

It is my understanding that there will be a meeting of the SFPUC Commissioners and the General Manager on February 24, 2009 to discuss the use of chloramine by the SFPUC, and the response of the SFPUC to the concerns expressed by some members of the public.

In 2007, I rendered an opinion that the use of chloramine, following the procedures of the SFPUC, does not pose a significant risk to humans, and that reports of adverse health effects were anecdotal and biologically implausible.

Since the time of that opinion letter, additional anecdotal reports of possible adverse effects have been published or publicized. There continues to be confusion amongst some individuals as to the effects of mono-chloramine versus more complex chloramines such as di-chloramine and tri-chloramine and other chemical species. However, no creditable evidence that chloramine (monochloramine), as used as a water disinfectant at recommended concentrations, has surfaced. Investigations by the Centers for Diseases Control have not yielded any evidence of such adverse effects. In addition, no peer-reviewed papers or journal articles have been published in the scientific literature that would support the thesis that drinking water disinfection with chloramine has adverse health effects for humans.

Thus, the essential opinion that I expressed in my April 19, 2007 letter remains unchanged.

Respectfully yours,

Jeffrey K. Griffiths, MD MPH&TM
Associate Professor of Public Health, Medicine, Nutrition, and Engineering
Tufts University School of Medicine
member, US EPA Science Advisory Board, Water Panel