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F. C. F.	JUN-3 '31
J. D. E.	
H. E. B.	

June 3, 1931

*Water Analysis
Fluorine*

Mr. C. F. Drake,
Pittsburgh Filtration Plant,
Aspinwall, Pennsylvania.

Dear Mr. Drake:

Your very interesting letter of June 1st evokes the following comment. Tap water from both New Kensington and Pittsburgh shows that the fluorine content is variable in both waters. In no case have we found the amount to be greater than 1 part per million. Fluorine in this amount is probably not harmful and on the other hand may be positively beneficial. From our observations on both Pittsburgh and New Kensington waters we feel that there is no occasion for alarm. Fluorine, however, has been present in Pittsburgh water during the past six weeks. If you would care to have us do so we will be glad to run spectrograms on occasional samples of your water if you will furnish the samples. What we would like to receive would be the total solids after evaporation. We could then easily produce a spectrogram. We would either send you prints of the spectra or the original plates as you might prefer. Incidentally our spectrographer would be glad to fully read the plates for you, covering all the elements found to be present. This would

Mr. C. F. Drake

June 3, 1931

2

involve no expense to you for our part and we would be glad to cooperate with you. Mottled enamel does not occur in the Pittsburgh district but nevertheless the spectrograms might be of interest to you. The presence of fluorine in water is apparently not necessarily proof of industrial contamination since it occurs in small amounts in so many water supplies. But fluorine contents should be kept low if no trouble is to ensue.

Yours very truly,

ALUMINUM COMPANY OF AMERICA
Aluminum Research Laboratories

H. V. Churchill - Chief Chemist

HVC-RL