

**To Environment Canterbury Regional Council**

**Public notice of proposed Canterbury Air Regional Plan**

Air: Ecan currently only test for concentrates of Carbon Monoxide, Sulphur Dioxide and Nitrogen Dioxide in our breathable air. I feel it is about time we included airborne Fluorides! The industries that produce and or release fluorides into the atmosphere include: Aluminium Smelters, Glass Manufacturers, Pottery, Cement, Leather, Phosphate Fertiliser Plants, Coal Burning Power Plants as well as Farmland Burn offs to name just a few.

Whilst fluoride in drinking water is measured (unproven) safe at 1 part per million (1PPM), airborne fluorides kill vegetation, insects, birds, foliage, and grass at 1 part per Billion (1PPB) because, once fluoride binds with carbon particulate, this chemical marriage becomes "50 times" more lethal in air. And, it is "this air" that I feel should be monitored!

As an example: During November 1998 and January 1999, Belgium just across the channel from East Yorkshire had an Industrial Accident involving the toxic discharge into the air of the worst kind involving fluorides. This toxic cloud headed west to Yorkshire and then over the Pennines into Lancashire. 30,000 people died in a 6 week episode. The British Government prevented this information getting into the worlds media. 5,000 people died each week. [story: The Examiner Nov 98/Jan 99] I was living and working in Huddersfield at the time. A little closer to home: Mount Cargill (Dunedin) used to be full of birds, thousands of all kinds use to fill the area with bird-song. Then, suddenly they disappeared, as did the vegetation, small animals and cats.

Tests were carried out and the culprit appeared to have been an atmospheric pollutant. Whenever a southerly wind blew, more of natures creatures died! One Otago University researcher put forward a bold suggestion that it was the Hydrogen Fluoride gas from the Tiwai Smelter, carried along the edge of the Southern Alps at the same height as Mt Cargill. It was plausible because further down the mountain, birds still lived, small animals and foliage was not affected.

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