

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7529-2]

Announcement of Regulatory Determinations for Priority Contaminants on the Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), as amended in 1996, directs the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to publish a list of contaminants (referred to as the Contaminant Candidate List, or CCL) to assist in priority-setting efforts for the Agency's drinking water program. SDWA also directs the Agency to select five or more contaminants every five years from the current CCL and determine whether or not to regulate these contaminants with a National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR).

On June 3, 2002, EPA published preliminary regulatory determinations for nine contaminants together with the determination process, rationale, and supporting technical information for each contaminant to seek comment from the public (67 FR 38222). The nine contaminants include three inorganic compounds (IOCs) (manganese, sodium, and sulfate); three synthetic organic compounds (SOCs) (aldrin, dieldrin, and metribuzin); two volatile organic compounds (VOCs) (hexachlorobutadiene and naphthalene); and one microbial contaminant, *Acanthamoeba*. EPA's preliminary determination was that no regulatory action was appropriate for any of the nine contaminants.

EPA received 15 comments from individuals or organizations on the preliminary regulatory determinations for the nine contaminants. The Agency has reviewed these comments and, after careful consideration, decided that no regulatory action is appropriate, at this time, for the nine CCL contaminants published in the June 2002 notice. Regulation of the nine contaminants would not present a meaningful opportunity for health risk reduction for persons served by public water systems (PWSs).

Today's action describes the statutory requirements for the CCL, the analysis EPA used to make the regulatory determinations, a summary of relevant public comments with the Agency's responses, a summary of the nine CCL contaminants, and the Agency's findings for each contaminant.

ADDRESSES: The official public docket for this action is located at EPA's West Building, Room B-102, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For copies of, and general information about this document or information about the nine contaminants discussed in this action, contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline. Callers within the United States may reach the Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or its local number (703) 412-3330. The Hotline is open Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Eastern Time. For technical inquiries contact: Thomas Carpenter (202) 564-4885, e-mail: carpenter.thomas@epa.gov or Harriet Colbert, (202) 564-4698, e-mail: colbert.harriet@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

I. General Information

A. Does This Notice Apply to My Public Water System?

Today's action does not impose any requirements on anyone. Instead, it notifies interested parties of EPA's responses to comments received on EPA's preliminary determination and of EPA's final determination not to regulate nine CCL contaminants.

B. How Can I Get Copies of Related Information?

1. Docket. EPA has established an official public docket for this action under Docket ID No. OW-2002-0021. The official public docket is the collection of materials that is available for public viewing at the Water Docket in the EPA Docket Center, (EPA/DC) EPA West, Room B102, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC. The EPA Docket Center Public Reading Room is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the Public Reading Room is (202) 566-1744, and the telephone number for the Water Docket is (202) 566-2426.

2. Electronic Access. You may access this **Federal Register** document electronically through the EPA Internet under the "**Federal Register**" listings at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/>.

An electronic version of the public docket is available through EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, EPA Dockets. You may use EPA Dockets at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket/> to view public comments, access the index listing of the contents of the official public docket, and to access those documents in the public docket that are available electronically.

Although not all docket materials may be available electronically, you may still access any of the publicly available docket materials through the docket facility identified in section I.B.1. Once in the system, select "search," then key in the appropriate docket identification number.

Abbreviations and Acronyms Used in This Action

ATSDR Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
AWQC Ambient Water Quality Criteria
CASRN Chemical Abstract Services Registry Number
CCL Contaminant Candidate List
CWS Community Water Supply
EPA U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FDA U.S. Food and Drug Administration
FR Federal Register
g gram
HRL Health reference level
IOC Inorganic compound
kg Kilogram
L Liter
MCL Maximum contaminant level
MCLG Maximum contaminant level goal
mg milligram
MTBE Methyl-t-butyl ether
NDWAC National Drinking Water Advisory Council
NIRS National Inorganic and Radionuclide Survey
NPDWR National Primary Drinking Water Regulation
NRC National Research Council
OPP Office of Pesticides Program
ORD Office of Research and Development
PWS Public Water System
RSC Relative Source Contribution
SAB Science Advisory Board
SDWA Safe Drinking Water Act
SOC Synthetic organic compound
TRI Toxic Release Inventory
UCM Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring
USEPA United States Environmental Protection Agency
USGS United States Geological Survey
VOC Volatile organic compound

II. Background

A. What Is the Statutory Requirement for the Contaminant Candidate List?

SDWA, as amended in 1996, directs EPA to publish a list of contaminants (referred to as the Contaminant Candidate List, or CCL) to assist the Agency in priority-setting efforts. The CCL is a list of contaminants which are not subject to any proposed or promulgated NPDWRs, are known or anticipated to occur in PWSs, and may require regulation under SDWA.