

determination either for perchlorate or MTBE. EPA is gathering information to fill the data gaps for these contaminants.

With respect to perchlorate, EPA is gathering national occurrence data on perchlorate in drinking water through the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring (UCM) Rule. The Agency is also completing a rigorous peer review of health effects studies and is developing a final toxicity review and risk characterization. As part of this effort, EPA has asked the National Academy of Sciences to review science issues related to the 2002 draft EPA risk assessment for perchlorate. In addition, the Agency is funding research studies on treatability of perchlorate for PWSs. Some of the technology currently in use at hazardous waste sites is being evaluated for the feasibility of using it in water treatment at community water systems. At the same time, EPA is seeking to improve the analytical method sensitivity that would allow concentrations of perchlorate to be quantified at lower levels than are presently possible. The Agency is moving concurrently in each of these areas to meet data and research needs as quickly as possible. When the necessary information is collected, we plan to move forward with a regulatory determination. In this regard, it should be emphasized that where EPA determines there is sufficient information on this or any other unregulated contaminant, the Agency is prepared to act in advance of the next five year regulatory determination cycle.

Regarding MTBE, on-going activities will provide the Agency with improved health effects and occurrence data. At this time, EPA is preparing its revised risk assessment for MTBE for peer review. The Agency established the 1997 Drinking Water Advisory for MTBE at 20–40 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$, or parts per billion, ppb) to avoid unacceptable taste and odor and provide a protective margin of exposure for adverse health effects. The 20–40 ppb level was not based on the possible cancer risks. As a result of the UCM Rule, data from PWSs required to monitor for MTBE will be available in the middle of 2004.

V. Summary of the Agency's Findings on the Nine CCL Contaminants

A. *Acanthamoeba*

Description: *Acanthamoeba* is a free-living protozoa commonly found in water, soil, and air. Species of this microbe have been isolated worldwide from brackish and sea water, tap water, bottled water, airborne dust, swimming pools, hot springs, thermal effluents of

power plants, ocean sediments, vegetables, and hot tubs. *Acanthamoeba* species have been associated with human infections affecting the eye, lung, brain, and skin. *Acanthamoeba* has been recovered from the nose and throat of humans with impaired respiratory function and from apparently healthy persons, suggesting that the amoeba is commonly inhaled.

Agency Findings: After reviewing the best available public health and occurrence information, EPA has made the determination not to regulate *Acanthamoeba* with a NPDWR at this time, because regulation would not present a meaningful opportunity for health risk reduction for the people served by public drinking water systems (PWSs). As noted in the June 2002 notice (USEPA 2002a), EPA has no national monitoring data to indicate occurrence of *Acanthamoeba* cysts in drinking water, and filtration practices commonly used to treat drinking water remove *Acanthamoeba* cysts.

A complete review of EPA's analysis of the health effects, occurrence, and exposure for *Acanthamoeba* were presented in the June 2002 notice (USEPA 2002a) and in the health effects support document for *Acanthamoeba* (USEPA 2003h). EPA intends to release a guidance document for *Acanthamoeba* that will be directed mainly to contact lens wearers and will address the risks of *Acanthamoeba* eye infection associated with improper care of contact lenses.

B. Aldrin and Dieldrin

Description: Aldrin and dieldrin (Chemical Abstract Services Registry Number (CASRN) 309–00–2 and 60–57–1, respectively) are the common names of two structurally similar insecticides. They are discussed together because aldrin readily changes to dieldrin in the body and in the environment, and they cause similar adverse health effects. From 1950–1970, aldrin and dieldrin were popular pesticides used for crops, such as corn and cotton. Because of concerns about damage to the environment and the potential harm to human health, EPA banned most uses of aldrin and dieldrin in 1974, except for the control of termites, and banned all uses outright since 1987. According to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), aldrin and dieldrin have not been produced in the United States since 1974 (ATSDR 1993).

Agency Findings: After reviewing the best available public health and occurrence information, EPA has made the determination not to regulate aldrin or dieldrin with a NPDWR at this time, because regulation would not present a

meaningful opportunity for health risk reduction for the people served by PWSs. EPA recognizes that aldrin and dieldrin are probable human carcinogens, but the chemicals have been banned for most uses since 1974, and have a low frequency and low level of occurrence in drinking water supplies.

A complete review of EPA's analysis of the health effects, occurrence, and exposure for aldrin and dieldrin were presented in the June 2002 notice (USEPA 2002a) and in the regulatory determination (USEPA 2001a) and health effects (USEPA 2003a) support documents for aldrin and dieldrin.

C. Hexachlorobutadiene

Description: Hexachlorobutadiene (CASRN 87–68–3) is a VOC that is relatively insoluble in water (solubility of 2–2.55 mg/L). Hexachlorobutadiene is mainly used to make rubber compounds. It is also used in gyroscopes, as a heat transfer liquid, as a hydraulic fluid, as a solvent, and to make lubricants. It has never been manufactured as a commercial product in the United States, however, it is imported and significant quantities of the chemical are generated in the United States as a waste by-product from the chlorination of hydrocarbons.

Most exposure to hexachlorobutadiene comes from breathing contaminated air in the workplace environment. People living near hazardous waste sites containing hexachlorobutadiene may be exposed to it by breathing air or by drinking contaminated water.

Agency Findings: After reviewing the best available public health and occurrence information, EPA has made the determination not to regulate hexachlorobutadiene with a NPDWR at this time, because it would not present a meaningful opportunity for health risk reduction for persons served by PWSs. Hexachlorobutadiene occurs in PWSs, but not at a frequency or level of public health concern.

A complete review of EPA's analysis of the health effects, occurrence, and exposure for hexachlorobutadiene were presented in the June 2002 notice (USEPA 2002a) and in the regulatory determination (USEPA 2001b) and health effects (USEPA 2003b) support documents for hexachlorobutadiene.

D. Manganese

Description: Manganese (CASRN 7439–96–5) is a naturally occurring element found at low levels in soil, water, and food. It is an essential trace element for humans and all animal species. It constitutes approximately 0.1