

EPA/DC—EPA Docket Center  
 FQPA—Food Quality Protection Act  
 FR—**Federal Register**  
 IOC—inorganic chemical  
 IRED—interim reregistration eligibility decision  
 IRIS—Integrated Risk Information System  
 LCCA—Lead Contamination Control Act of 1988  
 LCR—Lead and Copper Rule  
 MCL—maximum contaminant level  
 MCLG—maximum contaminant level goal  
 MDL—method detection limit  
 mg/kg/day—milligram(s) per kilogram of body weight per day  
 mg/L—milligram(s) per liter  
 MYP—multi-year plan  
 NAS—National Academy of Sciences  
 NCOD—National Contaminant Occurrence Database  
 NDWAC—National Drinking Water Advisory Council  
 NPDWR—National Primary Drinking Water Regulation  
 NRC—National Research Council  
 NTP—National Toxicology Program  
 NTNCWS—non-transient non-community water system  
 Occurrence Methodology Document—Occurrence Estimation Methodology and Occurrence Findings Report for the Six-Year Review of Existing National Primary Drinking Water Regulations  
 Occurrence Summary Document—Occurrence Summary and Use Support Document for the Six-Year Review of Existing National Primary Drinking Water Regulations  
 OPP—Office of Pesticide Programs  
 OW—Office of Water  
 PE—performance evaluation  
 PHS—Public Health Service  
 PQL—practical quantitation level  
 Protocol Document—EPA Protocol for Review of Existing National Primary Drinking Water Regulations  
 RED—reregistration eligibility decision  
 RfD—reference dose  
 ROS—regression on ordered statistics  
 RSC—relative source contribution  
 SAB—Science Advisory Board  
 SAP—Science Advisory Panel  
 SDWA—Safe Drinking Water Act  
 SOC—synthetic organic chemical  
 TCR—Total Coliform Rule  
 TMDLs—total maximum daily loads  
 Treatment Feasibility Document—Water Treatment Technology Feasibility Support Document for Chemical Contaminants; In Support of EPA Six-Year Review of National Primary Drinking Water Regulations  
 TT—treatment technique  
 VOC—volatile organic chemical  
 WQP—water quality parameter  
 WS—water supply

## II. Background

### A. What Is the Statutory Requirement for the Six-Year Review?

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), as amended in 1996, EPA must periodically review existing National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWRs) and, if appropriate, revise them. Section 1412(b)(9) of SDWA states:

The Administrator shall, not less often than every 6 years, review and revise, as appropriate, each national primary drinking water regulation promulgated under this title. Any revision of a national primary drinking water regulation shall be promulgated in accordance with this section, except that each revision shall maintain, or provide for greater, protection of the health of persons.

### B. What Has the Agency Done To Address the Statutory Requirement?

The Agency developed a systematic process, or protocol, for the review of existing NPDWRs in accordance with the SDWA requirements and applied the protocol to the review of the NPDWRs for total coliforms and 68 inorganic and organic chemicals published prior to the SDWA 1996 Amendments (*i.e.*, pre-1997 NPDWRs). In the April 17, 2002, **Federal Register**, EPA provided:

- A description of the review protocol;
- A detailed discussion of how the protocol was applied in assessing each of the 69 pre-1997 NPDWRs;
- The preliminary results of each of the technical reviews, and the preliminary decision for each NPDWR; and
- A request for the public to comment on any aspect of the Agency's protocol and preliminary decisions.

Please refer to the April 17, 2002, **Federal Register** for the detailed discussion of EPA's revise/not revise decisions for each of the 69 NPDWRs. Today's action briefly summarizes the major public comments, other new information, and EPA's current revise/not revise decisions for the 69 NPDWRs. Today's action only discusses in detail those decisions or rationales that were affected by public comments or other new information that has become available since April 2002.

In June 2002, EPA consulted with the Science Advisory Board (SAB) Drinking Water Committee and requested their review and comment on whether the protocol EPA developed based on the National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC) recommendations was consistently applied and appropriately documented. The SAB provided verbal feedback regarding the transparency and clarity of EPA's

decision criteria for making its revise/not revise decisions under the current review. EPA has revised this protocol document to better explain how the decision criteria were applied and will also take the SAB comments into consideration when planning for the next review cycle.

## III. EPA's Current Revise/Not Revise Decisions for the 69 Pre-1997 NPDWRs

EPA received comments from 44 commenters on its preliminary revise/not revise decisions in the April 17, 2002, **Federal Register**. The Agency responded to these comments in the "Public Comment and Response Summary for the Six-Year Review of National Primary Drinking Water Regulations" (USEPA, 2003e), which is available in the Water Docket in the EPA Docket Center and at the EPA Dockets Web site <http://www.epa.gov/epadocket/>. Other technical support documents<sup>1</sup> for the decisions discussed in today's action are also available in the Water Docket and at the EPA Dockets Web site <http://www.epa.gov/epadocket/> and the Safewater Web site <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/>.

Based on the Agency's preliminary review, as well as the public comments received and other new information, EPA believes that it is appropriate to revise the Total Coliform Rule (TCR). The Agency also believes that it is not appropriate to revise the 68 chemical NPDWRs at this time. However, for the reasons discussed in sections IV.B.7, IV.B.13, and IV.B.14 of today's action, the Agency has modified the basis of its not revise findings for 1,1-dichloroethylene, lead, and lindane, respectively. Table III-1 reflects the Agency's current revise/not revise decisions for the 69 NPDWRs. As indicated in Table III-1, EPA's decision not to revise an NPDWR at this time is based on one of the following reasons:

- Health risk assessment is in process: As of December 31, 2002, the Agency is currently conducting, or has scheduled, a detailed review of current health effects information. Because the results of the assessment are not yet available, or were not available in time for consideration under the 1996-2002 review cycle, the Agency does not believe it is appropriate to revise the NPDWR at this time. In these cases, EPA will consider the results of the updated

<sup>1</sup> These include: (1) EPA's overall protocol for the review of NPDWRs (USEPA, 2003c); (2) health effects (USEPA, 2003f); (3) analytical methods feasibility (USEPA, 2003a); (4) treatment technology (USEPA, 2003g); (5) consideration of other regulatory revisions (USEPA, 2003b); (6) occurrence and exposure (USEPA, 2003d; USEPA, 2002f); (7) and economic considerations (USEPA, 2002c).