

an outdated MCL which creates a burden on State and local government, its citizens, and diverts limited resources away from programs that provide real benefits. Some commenters also stated that the treatment costs to hundreds of community water systems are considerable. One commenter also stated that these are real dollars that would otherwise be available for emergency services, education, nutrition programs, and other vital programs that are the responsibilities of local and State agencies.

EPA Response: As stated in the previous response in section IV.B.3.a, EPA does not believe it is appropriate to revise the NPDWR for atrazine at this time because the risk assessment is not yet final. If EPA decides to revise the NPDWR for atrazine, economic factors, including feasibility and an assessment of costs and benefits, will be taken into consideration for the drinking water program.

4. Beryllium

Two commenters believed that the current drinking water standard for beryllium is more stringent than necessary for the protection of public health and felt that EPA should adopt a higher value for the beryllium standard. These commenters disagreed with EPA on the use of an uncertainty factor of 300 in deriving the 1998 RfD. The commenters stated the use of uncertainty factors of 3 for database uncertainty, 10 for extrapolating data from a dog study to humans, and 10 for intraspecies variation is inappropriate. The commenters stated that EPA has the authority to raise the current drinking water standards for beryllium based on new information that allows for a smaller margin of safety than the one used by EPA. The commenter felt that the current standard for beryllium is "lower than necessary to protect the public from beryllium toxicity and results in clean-up standards that are lower than naturally occurring level of beryllium in water sources and soils." This commenter also expressed concern that the local application of the Federal drinking water standard to private wells in some cases caused undue concerns among users of those wells.

EPA Response: One of the purposes of the Six-Year Review is to determine if the MCL of a chemical should be changed based on a revised RfD or cancer classification. Analytical methods and treatment technologies are

considered, as well as occurrence in public water systems. The RfD for beryllium was revised in 1998 based on extensive Agency internal and external reviews, and is unlikely to be revised in the absence of new data. The 1998 assessment also provided separate cancer classification for inhalation and oral exposures (USEPA, 1998). In the revised assessment, the carcinogenicity of beryllium by the inhalation route was described as "likely," while that by the oral route of exposure "cannot be determined." As discussed in the April 17, 2002, **Federal Register**, the Agency considered the occurrence of beryllium at both potentially higher and lower regulatory levels. EPA concluded that a revision to the NPDWR would not result in a meaningful opportunity for health risk reduction or cost-savings to public water systems and their customers. As a result, revision of this NPDWR is a low priority action for the Agency and is not appropriate at this time.

The goal of drinking water standards is to protect public health. Therefore, it does not matter whether the source of contamination is naturally-occurring or man-made. While EPA appreciates the information on private wells, the SDWA requirements do not apply to private wells (*i.e.*, wells that are not part of a "public water system"). The costs and benefits of a drinking water standard are assessed only with regard to the impacts on public water systems and their customers.

5. Carbofuran

Some commenters mentioned that the Agency concluded that N-methyl carbamates, including carbofuran, should be considered as a class because they have a common mechanism of toxicity. Therefore, they believe EPA should issue a stronger standard for total N-methyl carbamates, including carbofuran, which would be more stringent than the current carbofuran standard of 0.04 mg/L.

EPA Response: EPA is re-evaluating the toxicity of carbofuran. However, a final assessment has not been issued by EPA. The Agency considers N-methyl carbamate pesticides as a group of chemicals having a common mechanism of toxicity due to their ability to inhibit acetylcholinesterase. However, it is not appropriate to revise the NPDWR for carbofuran at this time because the Agency has not yet completed the final health risk assessment for carbofuran or the other N-methyl carbamates.

6. Chromium

One commenter requested that EPA move quickly in making a revise/not revise determination once the new data

on chromium become available from the National Toxicology Program (NTP) studies of the health effects of chromium VI.

EPA Response: The NTP studies that the commenter refers to should be available before the end of the next Six-Year Review cycle. Meanwhile, EPA is continuing to follow the progress of NTP in conducting subchronic and chronic studies of chromium VI.⁶ NTP made the data from the subchronic portion of the study available to the public in June 2002 (NTP, 2002). A peer review meeting was held at NTP on July 24, 2002. EPA will examine the peer review report covering the subchronic data once it becomes available. Once the subchronic and chronic studies are completed, the health effects data will be evaluated with regard to their impact on the present RfD and cancer assessment, and integrated with the occurrence and analytical method data before making a new revise/not revise decision.

7. 1,1-Dichloroethylene

In the April 17, 2002, **Federal Register**, the Agency preliminarily placed 1,1-dichloroethylene in the no revision category because a health risk assessment was pending at the time of publication. Since the publication of the April 17, 2002, **Federal Register**, the Agency has finalized the risk assessment for 1,1-dichloroethylene. The remaining paragraphs in this section include a brief background discussion about the original promulgation of the 1,1-dichloroethylene NPDWR, the results of the appropriate six-year technical reviews and the Agency's revise/not revise decision.

a. Background. EPA published the current NPDWR for 1,1-dichloroethylene on July 8, 1987 (52 FR 25690 (USEPA, 1987)). The NPDWR established an MCLG and an MCL of 0.007 mg/L. The Agency based the MCLG on an RfD of 0.009 milligram per kilogram of body weight per day (mg/kg/day) and a cancer classification of C, possible human carcinogen.

b. Technical Reviews. EPA updated the risk assessment for 1,1-dichloroethylene on August 13, 2002 (USEPA, 2002i). The new risk assessment established an RfD of 0.046 mg/kg/day, based on the same toxicological study as that of the MCLG, but using an uncertainty factor of 100

⁶ Since NTP is posting its progress on its internet site <http://ntp-server.niehs.nih.gov/htdocs/Studies/HexChromium/hexchromiumpg.html>, EPA and the public will be able to evaluate the new data relative to the existing EPA assessment for chromium VI as it is released.

required controls. A TMDL establishes the maximum amount of a pollutant that may be introduced into a waterbody while still ensuring attainment and maintenance of water quality standards.