

The results of the detailed occurrence and exposure analysis indicate that few, if any, of the 16,098 systems sampled in the 16-State cross-section might be affected if EPA were to consider levels as high as 0.001 mg/L. The current BATs and small system compliance technology for lindane have other beneficial effects (e.g., reduction of other co-occurring contaminants, or other common impurities) in addition to lindane removal. Therefore, if EPA were to consider a higher level, the Agency does not know how many of these public water systems that are currently treating to comply with the current MCL of 0.0002 mg/L would be likely to discontinue any treatment that is already in place (USEPA, 2002c; USEPA, 2003g).

c. *Current Decision.* Although there are new health effects data that might support calculation of a less stringent standard for lindane, EPA does not believe a revision to the NPDWR for lindane is appropriate at this time. In making this decision, the Agency considered whether any potential revision to the lindane NPDWR is likely to provide a meaningful opportunity for cost-savings to public water systems and their customers. After consideration of this factor, EPA has decided that any revision to lindane would be a low priority activity for the Agency, and, thus, is not appropriate to revise at this time because of:

- Competing workload priorities;
- The administrative costs associated with rulemaking; and
- The burden on States and the regulated community to implement any regulatory change that resulted.

15. Simazine

One commenter agreed that simazine should be addressed after the risk assessment is completed in 2003 or 2004. The commenter requested that the Office of Water (OW) work closely with the OPP on the risk assessment at that time. The commenter also recommended that OW address the revision of the existing simazine NPDWR before the next review cycle year, scheduled for 2008. The commenter believes the extensive mammalian toxicology database, submitted as part of the Triazine Special Review, can be used in this process.

EPA Response: OW has been coordinating with OPP for the revision of the atrazine and simazine risk assessments. Once the simazine risk assessment is completed, EPA will determine whether a compelling reason exists to consider review of the simazine NPDWR on an accelerated schedule.

C. What Comments Did EPA Receive Regarding the Review of Implementation-Related Issues for Chemical NPDWRs?

Several commenters recommended that EPA ensure consistent application of rules by making rules more consistent with respect to monitoring frequency, triggers for increased monitoring, criteria for returning to routine monitoring, and criteria for reducing sample requirements. In addition, commenters suggested that the Agency review possible ways for reducing the reporting burden on States, which could free up State resources currently used to implement rules.

One commenter was concerned about monitoring and reporting issues in conjunction with CMR. The commenter felt that EPA should not miss an opportunity to relieve some of the unnecessary confusion that the monitoring requirements of Phase II and V have created. This confusion includes issues such as, what a detection is and what the monitoring requirements are for systems in States without a waiver program. EPA was encouraged to provide this consistency as much as possible, including using the standard monitoring framework to allow States and water systems to more easily understand rule requirements and reduce the need for States to update their data management systems.

One commenter said EPA should ensure consistent application of rules by determining whether or not chronic contaminants should be regulated at non-transient non-community water systems (NTNCWSs), and review existing NPDWRs to ensure that rules are applied consistently. Another commenter recommended that the compliance language for the synthetic organic chemicals (SOCs) and volatile organic chemicals (VOCs) in the Final Arsenic Rule (66 FR 6975, January 22, 2001 (USEPA, 2001)) be adopted for the inorganic chemicals (IOCs), and that systems not be considered in violation of the MCL until it has completed one year of quarterly samples.

EPA Response: The Agency agrees that consistency across regulations is desirable to the extent that it does not jeopardize public health protection or the environment.

As part of the Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for CMR (62 FR 36100, July 3, 1997 (USEPA, 1997a)), EPA considered some of the issues raised by the commenters. However, during the comment period for the CMR, stakeholders generally indicated that the existing monitoring framework was sufficient. Most State commenters

indicated that it would be too burdensome to adopt CMR. As a result, the Agency decided to take no further action on the CMR. However, the Agency established a standardized monitoring framework which applies to all of the regulated chemical and radiological contaminants (except lead and copper). The new chemical and radiological rules that EPA has promulgated (e.g., arsenic and radionuclides) are coordinated with the standardized monitoring framework. The Agency made special efforts to ensure that the reduced monitoring periods are in line with the 3-year compliance periods in the standardized monitoring framework.

To assist States with understanding rule requirements, the Agency conducted a series of Phase II/V training in 2001. The training provided information to help States make informed decisions about reducing quarterly monitoring requirements. With respect to reduced monitoring, States currently have the flexibility to reduce the frequency of monitoring and/or to waive sampling requirements for any given contaminant after minimum criteria are met to demonstrate that the system is reliably and consistently below the MCL and/or not vulnerable to contamination.

NTNCWSs are traditionally regulated for chronic contaminants. However, through an alternative mechanism, the Agency is currently evaluating risk and exposure as they pertain to NTNCWS monitoring requirements. This review will not be completed in time for this Six-Year Review process. Until all the issues have been identified and specific options have been formulated, it will not be clear if a revision to regulations is indicated.

EPA intends to consistently implement compliance determination provisions for IOCs, SOC, and VOCs for all NTNCWSs and community water systems, as described in the preamble to the Final Arsenic Rule (66 FR 6975 at 6990, January 22, 2001 (USEPA, 2001)). The rule makes compliance determinations based on a running annual average. The clarifications to compliance determinations for SOC, IOC, and VOC are based on the average of the initial MCL exceedance and any subsequent State-required confirmation samples. States have the flexibility to require confirmation samples and more frequent monitoring, in addition to required quarterly samples. The average of the exceedance and confirmation sample constitutes the first quarterly sample. Compliance with the MCL is based on the average of the first quarterly sample and three