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Exempt Requester

[Docket No. Date Filed Presenter]

1. RP00-241-000 11-18-02 John F. Riordan
2. RP00-241-000 12-9-02 James H. Farrell, Jr.
3. CP02-396-000 12-20-02 Inge S. Terrill, M.En.
4. Project No. 2069-007 12-26-02 Steven L. Spangle.
5. Project No. 2086-000 12-26-02 Thomas T. Taylor

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Deputy Secretary.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OW-FRL-7435-7]

Nutrient Criteria Development; Notice of Ecoregional Nutrient Criteria

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of ecoregional nutrient criteria for lakes and reservoirs, and rivers and streams.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 304(a) of the Clean Water Act (CWA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announces two actions: (1) The finalization of nine section 304(a) ecoregional nutrient criteria documents for lakes and reservoirs, and rivers and streams within specific geographic regions (ecoregions) of the United States; and (2) a request for significant scientific information on three new section 304(a) ecoregional nutrient criteria documents. These documents serve as recommendations for States, Territories and authorized Tribes¹ to use as they develop nutrient criteria to

protect designated uses and adopt these criteria into water quality standards.

For Which New Documents Is EPA Requesting Significant Scientific Information From the Public?

EPA invites the public to provide scientific views on three new ecoregional nutrient criteria documents: Lakes and reservoirs in ecoregions 1 and 10, and rivers and streams in ecoregion 13. EPA requests significant scientific information pertaining to the derivation of the draft criteria. EPA will accept significant scientific information submitted to the Agency within 90 days of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. Written significant information to: Robert Cantilli, U.S. EPA, Health and Ecological Criteria Division (4304), Office of Science and Technology, Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington DC 20460. You may also send comments by e-mail to: cantilli.robert@epa.gov.

What Are the Criteria Recommendations for These Three Ecoregions?

AGGREGATE ECOREGIONAL (AGG. ER) CRITERIA RECOMMENDATIONS

Parameter	Agg. ER I	Agg. ER X	Agg. ER XIII
TP µg/L	55.00	60.00	15.00
TN mg/L	*0.66	0.57	1.44
Chl a µg/L	4.88	5.47	
Secchi/Turbidity**	2.55	0.77	1.49

*Calculated—a value for TN was not available, so TN was calculated based on measurements of Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN), and Nitrate + Nitrite (NO₂+NO₃).

**Secchi depth (m) is applicable to the values in Agg. ER's I and X. Turbidity (FTU) is applicable to Agg. ER XIII.

Which Documents Are Final?

The nine documents being finalized today represent nutrient criteria recommendations for lakes and reservoirs in ecoregions 3, 4, 5, and 14 and nutrient criteria recommendations for rivers and streams in ecoregions 1, 4, 5, 8, and 10. EPA announced the availability of these documents in the

Federal Register on February 28, 2002. These documents have undergone external peer review and have been reviewed by the public.

What Are the Nutrient Criteria Recommendations for Those Ecoregions?

The following tables summarize criteria recommendations for lakes and

reservoirs and rivers and streams, respectively. Table 3 of each document also provides values for each of the subecoregion (level III) within each Aggregate ecoregion.

AGGREGATE ECOREGIONAL (AGG. ER) CRITERIA RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LAKES AND RESERVOIRS

Parameter	Agg. ER III	Agg. ER IV	Agg. ER V	Agg. ER XIV
TP µg/L	17.00	20.00	33.00	8.00
TN mg/L	0.40	0.44	0.56	0.32
Chl a µg/L	3.40	2.00 (S)	2.30 (S)	2.90
Secchi (m)	2.70	2.00	1.30	4.50

Chl a—Chlorophyll a measured by Fluorometric method, unless specified. S is for Spectrophotometric.

¹ Hereafter, this **Federal Register** Notice refers to these entities as "States and authorized Tribes."

Throughout this document, reference to States and authorized Tribes is intended to include Territories.