

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**[FRL-7577-9]****Standards for the Use or Disposal of Sewage Sludge: Decision Not To Regulate Dioxins in Land-Applied Sewage Sludge****AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency.**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA or Agency) is giving final notice of its determination that neither numerical limitations nor requirements for management practices are currently needed to protect human health and the environment from

reasonably anticipated adverse effects from dioxin and dioxin-like compounds in land-applied sewage sludge.

DATES: In accordance with 40 CFR 23.2, this final decision is promulgated for purposes of judicial review as of 1 p.m. Eastern Time on November 7, 2003. Under section 509(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act, judicial review of this final action can be obtained only by filing a petition for review in the United States Court of Appeals within 120 days after the final action is considered promulgated for purposes of judicial review.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Cantilli, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water, Office of Science and Technology, Health and Ecological Criteria Division

(4304T), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460 (202) 566-1091. cantilli.robert@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**A. Interested Entities**

Entities typically regulated by Standards for the Use or Disposal of Sewage Sludge are those that prepare sewage sludge (also called "biosolids") and/or use or dispose of the sewage sludge through application to the land, placement in a surface disposal unit, or incineration in a sewage sludge incinerator. Entities potentially interested by today's notice include those that prepare and/or use sewage sludge for land-application purposes. Categories and entities interested in today's action include:

Category	Examples of affected entities
State/Local/Tribal Government	Publicly owned treatment works and other treatment works that treat domestic sewage, prepare sewage sludge, and/or apply sewage sludge to the land.
Federal Government	Federal Agencies with treatment works that treat domestic sewage, prepare sewage sludge, and/or apply sewage sludge to the land.
Farmers and ranchers	Individuals who apply sewage sludge to land.
Industry	Privately-owned treatment works that treat domestic sewage, and persons who receive sewage sludge and change the quality of the sewage sludge before it is applied to the land.

This table is not intended to be exhaustive, but rather provides a guide for readers regarding entities likely to be interested in this action. This table lists the types of entities that EPA is now aware could potentially be interested in this action. Other types of entities not listed in the table could also be interested. To determine whether your facility is affected by this action, you should carefully examine today's notice. If you have questions regarding the applicability of this action to a particular entity, consult the person listed in the preceding **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

B. How Can I Get Copies of This Document and Other Related Information?

1. *Docket.* EPA has established an official public docket for this action under Docket ID No. OW-2002-0019. The official public docket consists of the documents specifically referenced in this action, any public comments received, and other information related to this action. Although a part of the official docket, the public docket does not include Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. The official docket is the collection of materials that are available for public viewing at the Water Docket in the EPA

Docket Center, (EPA/DC) EPA West, Room B102, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC. The EPA Docket Center Public Reading Room is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the Public Reading Room is (202) 566-1744, and the telephone number for the Water Docket is (202) 566-2426.

2. *Electronic Access.* You may access this **Federal Register** document electronically through the EPA Internet under the "Federal Register" listings at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/>.

An electronic version of the public docket is available through EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, EPA Dockets. You may use EPA Dockets at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket/> to view public comments, access the index listing of the contents of the official public docket, and to access those documents in the public docket that are available electronically. Once in the system, select "search," then key in the appropriate docket identification number. Although not all docket materials may be available electronically, you may still access any of the publicly available docket materials through the docket facility identified in section B.1.

C. Table of Contents

- I. Abbreviations and Acronyms Used
- II. What Is the Legal History of the Standards for the Use and Disposal of Sewage Sludge?
- III. What Did EPA Propose for Dioxins in Land-Applied Sewage Sludge?
 - A. Proposed Rule
 - B. Notice of Data Availability (NODA)
- IV. What Final Action Is EPA Taking Today?
- V. What is the Basis for This Final Action for Dioxins in Land-Applied Sewage Sludge?
 - A. Overview
 - B. Assessment of Cancer Risk From Dioxins in Land-Applied Sewage Sludge
 - C. Findings Concerning Ecological Effects
 - D. Indications From the 2001 Survey of Dioxins in Sewage Sludge
- VI. Environmental Justice
- VII. Discussion of Scientific Information Presented in the NODA
 - A. Assessing Cancer Risk
 - B. Assessing Non-Cancer Risk
- VIII. Public Comments and Other Considerations
 - A. Definition of "Dioxins"
 - B. The Need for Regulating Dioxins in Land-Applied Sewage Sludge
 - C. Groundwater Exposure
 - D. Synergistic Effects
 - E. Voluntary Program
- IX. List of References

I. Abbreviations and Acronyms Used

AMSA—Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies
CFR—Code of Federal Regulations