

Latest Developments in Human Health Water Quality Criteria An EPA Perspective

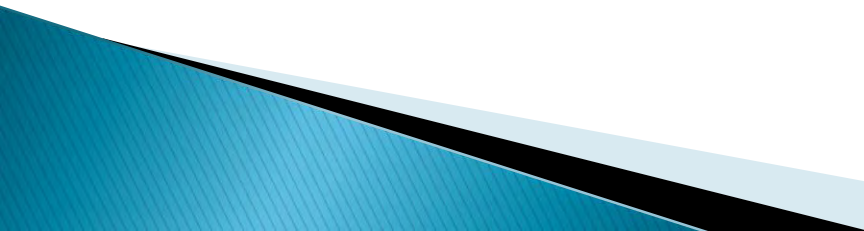
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EPA's Role in Water Quality Standards Development

- ▶ Generally, states and authorized tribes adopt WQS and submit to EPA for review and approval/disapproval
- ▶ Federal promulgation following EPA disapproval when state does not remedy (EPA must “promptly promulgate”)
 - or
- ▶ Administrator Determination

EPA Human Health Criteria Recommendations Update

- ▶ EPA proposed draft revised 304(a) human health criteria recommendations for 94 chemical pollutants in May 2014
 - ▶ Proposal results in more stringent criteria recommendations
 - ▶ Did not re-evaluate default FCR for subsistence fishers (current rate is 142 g/day)
 - ▶ Goal to finalize 304(a) recommendations by end of 2014
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R10 States: Human Health Toxics

▶ Oregon

- EPA approved criteria based on 175 grams/day FCR in 2011

▶ Washington

- Washington human health WQS under EPA's 1992 National Toxics Rule – uses 6.5 grams/day
- Ecology issued a preliminary draft rule on September 30
- Ecology expects to issue draft rule for formal public comment in January 2015
- EPA notified WA that it plans to propose federally promulgated standards by May 31, 2015 if WA has not adopted a final rule

R10 States: Human Health Toxics

▶ Idaho

- EPA disapproved state's 2005 criteria in May 2012
- Idaho working to gather additional information – statewide fish consumption survey.
- EPA working with ID tribes to conduct a tribal fish consumption survey
- ID planning to adopt final revised rule in 2016

▶ Alaska

- Conducting literature review
 - Planning public workshop in early 2015
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R10 Tribal Water Quality Standards

- ▶ Thirteen Tribes in Region 10 have Treatment as State for WQS
- ▶ Eleven Tribes have WQS; many interested in updating them
- ▶ Two have submitted TAS applications for WQS that are being reviewed by EPA
- ▶ Recent EPA actions on Tribal WQS:
 - Spokane Tribe
 - Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Updating Toxics Criteria for Human Health – Issues

- ▶ Protection of higher fish consumers
 - Environmental Justice
 - Tribal treaty rights
 - Tribal trust responsibility
 - ▶ Availability of regional and local (e.g., state-specific) fish consumption data
 - ▶ Industry compliance with water quality criteria
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