



Fact Sheet: Announcement of Completion of EPA's Review of Existing Drinking Water Standards

1. What is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announcing?

The Agency is announcing the completion of its review of 69 National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWRs) that were established prior to 1997. These 69 NPDWRs include 68 chemical NPDWRs and the Total Coliform Rule (TCR). EPA published its protocol for the review of NPDWRs and its preliminary revise/not revise decisions for the 69 NPDWRs in the April 17, 2002, edition of the *Federal Register* to request public comment (67 FR 19029-19090). The Agency received and reviewed comments from 44 commenters. Summaries of the major comments and the Agency's responses are included in both the *Federal Register* notice and the supporting response to comment document. In addition, the *Federal Register* also includes other new information (e.g., health risk assessments completed between April 17, 2002 and December 31, 2002), and EPA's current revise/not revise decisions for the 69 NPDWRs.

2. Why did EPA review these NPDWRs?

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), EPA must periodically review existing NPDWRs and, if appropriate, revise them. This requirement is contained in Section 1412(b)(9) of SDWA, as amended in 1996, which reads:

The Administrator shall, not less often than every 6 years, review and revise, as appropriate, each national primary drinking water regulation promulgated under this title. Any revision of a national primary drinking water regulation shall be promulgated in accordance with this section, except that each revision shall maintain, or provide for greater, protection of the health of persons.

3. What NPDWRs are covered by this action?

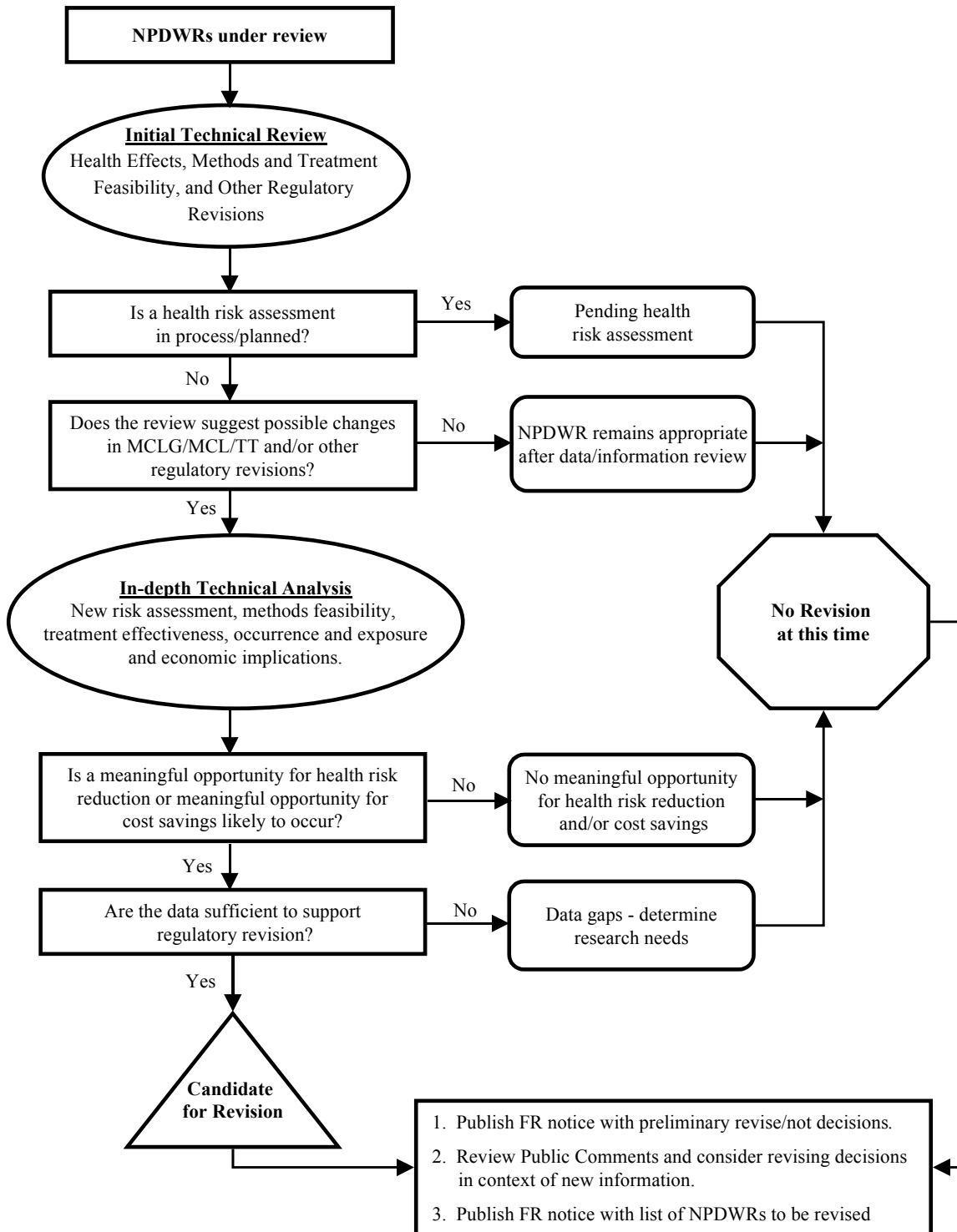
The Six-Year Review process only applies to existing national primary drinking water regulations (*i.e.*, currently regulated contaminants). Unregulated contaminants, such as those being evaluated by the Contaminant Candidate List (CCL) are not covered by the Six-Year Review. The current 1996-2002 review addresses NPDWRs promulgated prior to 1997 (referred to as pre-1997 NPDWRs), with the exception of those regulations that are the subject of recent or ongoing rulemaking activity (e.g., arsenic, radionuclides, disinfection byproducts, and most microbiological NPDWRs). EPA will review NPDWRs promulgated after 1997 at a later date.

4. How did EPA review the pre-1997 NPDWRs?

The primary goal of the Six-Year Review was to identify, prioritize and target candidates for regulatory revision that are most likely to result in a meaningful opportunity for health risk

reduction and/or meaningful cost savings to public water systems and their customers while maintaining or providing for greater levels of public health protection. To address this goal, EPA developed a systematic approach, or protocol, for the review of existing NPDWRs. EPA developed the protocol in consultation with the National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC) and other stakeholders. The protocol focused on several key elements that were intended to identify NPDWRs for which there is a health or technological basis for revising the NPDWR. The review relied upon an evaluation of relevant new information for the following key technical elements: health effects, analytical methods improvements, treatment technology effectiveness, other potential regulatory changes, occurrence and exposure data, and potential economic impacts. Figure 1 gives a general overview of the protocol used to make the revise/not revise decisions for the pre-1997 NPDWRs.

Figure 1: Overview of EPA's Protocol for Review of NPDWRs



5. What are the current revise/not revise decisions?

Based on the Agency's initial review, as well as the public comments received and other new information, EPA believes that it is appropriate to revise the TCR. The Agency also believes that it is not appropriate to revise the 68 chemical NPDWRs at this time. However, the Agency has modified the basis of its not revise findings for 1,1-dichloroethylene (new health risk assessment available), lead (based on public comments received), and lindane (new health risk assessment available). The rationale for not revising the other 65 chemical contaminants remains as described in the April 17, 2002 edition of the *Federal Register*. Table 1, below, reflects the Agency's current revise/not revise decisions for the 69 NPDWRs. As indicated in Table 1, each of EPA's "not revise" decisions were based on one of the following reasons:

- (A) *Health risk assessment is in process*: As of December 31, 2002, the Agency is currently conducting, or has scheduled, a detailed review of current health effects information. Because the results of the assessment are not yet available, or were not available in time for consideration under the 1996-2002 review cycle, the Agency does not believe it is appropriate to revise the NPDWR at this time.
- (B) *Remains appropriate after data/information review*: The outcome of the review indicates that the current regulatory requirements remain appropriate and therefore, no regulatory revisions are warranted. Any new information available to the Agency either supports the current regulatory requirements or does not justify a revision.
- (C) *New information, but no revision appropriate at this time because*:
 - (1) *Low priority*: In EPA's judgment, any resulting revisions to the NPDWR would not provide a meaningful opportunity for health risk reduction or cost-savings to public water systems and their customers. Such revisions are a low priority activity for the Agency and thus are not appropriate for revision at this time for one or more of the following reasons: competing workload priorities; administrative costs associated with rulemaking; and burden on states and the regulated community to implement any regulatory change that resulted.
 - (2) *Information gaps*: Although results of the review support consideration of a possible revision, the available data are insufficient to support a definitive regulatory decision at this time.

Table 1: Current Revise/Not Revise Decisions for the 68 Chemical NPDWRs and the TCR

Not Appropriate for Revision at this Time	Risk assessment in process ¹ : chemical currently undergoing an EPA health risk assessment; includes the three initiated as a result of this review (34 NPDWRs)		Acrylamide Alachlor Antimony Asbestos Atrazine Benzo[a]pyrene Cadmium Carbofuran Carbon tetrachloride Copper Cyanide 2,4-D (2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid) 1,2-Dichlorobenzene 1,4-Dichlorobenzene 1,2-Dichloroethane Di(2-ethylhexyl)adipate Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	Diquat Endothall Ethylbenzene Ethylene dibromide Glyphosate Methoxychlor Pentachlorophenol Polychlorinated biphenyls Simazine Styrene 2,3,7,8-TCDD (Dioxin) Tetrachloroethylene Thallium Toluene 1,1,1-Trichloroethane Trichloroethylene Xylenes
	NPDWR remains appropriate after data/information review (16 NPDWRs)		Barium Dalapon cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene Dinoseb Endrin Epichlorohydrin Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	Mercury Monochlorobenzene Nitrate Nitrite Selenium 2,4,5-TP (Silvex) 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene Vinyl chloride
	New information, but no revision appropriate because:	Low priority (14 NPDWRs)	Benzene Beryllium Chlordane 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane 1,1-Dichloroethylene 1,2-Dichloropropane Heptachlor	Heptachlor epoxide Hexachlorobenzene Lindane Oxamyl Picloram Toxaphene 1,1,2-Trichloroethane
		Information gaps (4 NPDWRs)	Chromium Dichloromethane	Fluoride Lead
Candidate for Revision	Based on review of "other regulatory revisions" (1 NPDWR)		Total Coliform Rule (TCR)	

1. As of December 31, 2002, the Agency is currently conducting, or has scheduled, a detailed review of current health effects information.

6. Will EPA consider reviewing any NPDWRs before the next review cycle?

For contaminants for which health risk assessments are in process (as of December 31, 2002) and contaminants for which there are information gaps, EPA will consider the results of the updated health risk assessment and the results of any research/information gathering during the 2002-2008 review cycle. However, if the results of the health risk assessment or research/information gathering indicate a compelling reason to revisit the not revise decision, EPA may decide to accelerate the review schedule for that contaminant's NPDWR.

7. What are the next steps?

EPA plans to consider revisions to the TCR with new requirements for ensuring the integrity of distribution systems. The Agency remains committed to obtaining input from stakeholders as a part of the rule development process.

The Agency expects to complete the next Six-Year review in the August 2008 time frame. That review will include the 68 chemical NPDWRs included in the current review as well as NPDWRs (e.g., arsenic, radionuclides) for which new/revised regulations have been promulgated between 1996 and 2002. EPA plans to apply the current protocol to the 2002-2008 review, modifying it where appropriate to incorporate lessons learned from the current review and to adjust for changing information sources. As discussed above, EPA may decide to accelerate the review for an individual NPDWR if new information presents a compelling reason to do so.

8. Where can I find more information about this notice and the Six-Year Review?

For general information on the Six-Year Review, please visit the EPA Safewater Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater> or contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. The Safe Drinking Water Hotline is open Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Eastern Time. In addition to this fact sheet, the following documents are electronically available to the public at EPA's Web site on the Six-Year Review:

- (A) The *Federal Register* (EPA 815-Z-03-001) announcing the Agency's completion of its review of existing drinking water standards;
- (B) The Agency's response to the major public comments received regarding its preliminary revise/not revisions decisions, entitled: *Public Comment and Response Summary for the Six-Year Review of National Primary Drinking Water Regulations* (EPA 815-R-03-001); and
- (C) The technical support documents for the Six-Year Review:
 - < EPA's Protocol for the Review of Existing National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (EPA 815-R-03-002)
 - < Six-Year Review - Chemical Contaminants: Health Effects (EPA 822-R-03-008)
 - < Analytical Feasibility Support Document for the Six-Year Review of Existing National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (EPA 815-R-03-003)
 - < Water Treatment Technology Feasibility Support Document (EPA 815-R-03-004)

- < Consideration of Other Regulatory Revisions for Chemical Contaminants in Support of the Six-Year Review of National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (EPA 815-R-03-005)
- < Occurrence Estimation Methodology and Occurrence Findings Report for the Six-Year Review (EPA 815-R-03-006)
- < Occurrence Summary and Use Support Document for the Six-Year Regulatory Review (EPA 815-D-02-006)

For a hard copy of this fact sheet (EPA 815-F-03-001), the *Federal Register* notice, and/or any of the Six-Year supporting documents, please contact EPA's Water Resource Center at 1-800-832-7828. This information is also available through the official public docket, which consists of documents specifically referenced in this action, any public comments received, and other information related to the action. The docket materials are available for public viewing at the Water Docket, EPA, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, EPA West, Room B-102, Washington, DC 20460; phone number 202-566-2426. This docket facility is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays. An index listing of the contents of the public docket, and documents in the docket that are available electronically can be accessed at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket/>. Once in the system, select "Quick Search," then key in the Six-Year Review docket identification number OW-2002-0012.