Universe Activity Group

Update for the CCL Work Group

Plenary Meeting

December 16-17, 2002

Work Group Member Participants

- Laura Anderko

- Rick Becker

- Buck Henderson

- Gary Lynch

- Wendy Heiger-Bernays

- Deborah Levy, CDC

- Mike Focazio, USGS

- EPA Staff and Consultants

Task / Issues to Address

TASK

- Develop principles for consideration in universe process (e.g., transparency, quality)

ISSUES

- Consider two alternative visions of the "Universe" of Potential Drinking Water Contaminants
  - The Universe is everything and should be all-inclusive
    OR
  - The Universe is everything for which there are available data

Issues to Address (cont.)

- Address data issues, such as:
  - Level of identification of compounds/organisms
    - Must it have a chemical name/taxonomy?
    - Must the structure (and mass, etc.) be precisely known?
    - Must there be a CASRN number?
  - Criteria for emerging contaminants may need to be different, less restrictive than for listed compounds
- Consider how to balance the level of effort, data available and considering the emergent contaminant that has limited data

Topics of Discussion

- EPA Deliverables:
  - Data sources
  - Future CCL Data Elements Commonalities
- Data elements
- Data gaps
- Sensitive subpopulations
- Level of effort
- Microbes vs. chemicals

Materials Reviewed

- Data Sources Guide (Summary of Data Sources)
  - Appendix 1. Data Source Description Table
  - A2. Text Database Review 10.22.02
  - A3. Data Source Review Summary 3.3
  - A4. Database Review Table
- Universe Discussion Outline
- Future CCL Data Elements Evaluation Phase I: Occurrence Elements (Commonalities)

Activity Group Findings

- The work group should recommend guidelines/ principles that EPA could follow, tempered by practicalities.

- In developing the universe of potential contaminants, the work group should recommend a more pragmatic approach of establishing some minimum criteria for what is included in the universe based on certain data elements.

  - Step 1: Identify all possible data sources to populate the "conceptual universe"

  - Step 2: Determine which sources have the necessary data elements to be used in screening down to the preliminary CCL

Activity Group Findings (cont.)

- A pragmatic approach will give less weight to emerging potential drinking water contaminants; existing data sources will not identify the universe of emerging contaminants. The work group should recommend a process for addressing emerging concerns.

- Discussion with groups considering the rest of the process will be helpful.

Next Steps

Identify/Discuss/Determine

- Lists and data sources for the conceptual universe (especially pathogens)

- How to capture/handle emerging contaminants

- If a contaminant needs data to be considered, what are the minimum criteria for the data (e.g., listed on TSCA? production data?)