



Fact Sheet: The Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List -- The Source of Priority Contaminants for the Drinking Water Program

EPA has drinking water regulations for more than 90 contaminants. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) includes a process that we must follow to identify new contaminants which may require regulation in the future. EPA must periodically release a Contaminant Candidate List (CCL). EPA uses this list of unregulated contaminants to prioritize research and data collection efforts to help us to determine whether we should regulate a specific contaminant.

In February 2005, we published the second CCL of 51 contaminants. We also provided an update on our work to improve the CCL process for the future that is based, in part, on recommendations from the National Research Council and the National Drinking Water Advisory Council. In addition to making the process used for selecting contaminants easier to understand, our goals for the future are to:

- C evaluate a wider range of information
- C screen contaminants more systematically, and
- C develop a more comprehensive CCL by expanding the number of contaminants being reviewed for inclusion on the next CCL.

You can find more information on the CCL on EPA's website at www.epa.gov/safewater/ccl/

Questions and Answers

What is the drinking water CCL?

The drinking water CCL is the primary source of priority contaminants on which we conduct research and make decisions about whether regulations are needed. The contaminants on the list are known or anticipated to occur in public water systems. However, they are currently unregulated by existing national primary drinking water regulations.

How often is the CCL published?

The Safe Drinking Water Act directs that we periodically publish a CCL. We published the first CCL of 60 contaminants in March 1998 and the second CCL in February 2005 after deciding to continue research on the list of contaminants on the first CCL.

What contaminants are included in CCL 2?

The CCL (published in 2005) carries forward 51 (of the original 60) unregulated contaminants from the first CCL, including nine microbiological contaminants and 42 chemical contaminants or contaminant groups (see table). In July 2003, EPA announced its final determination for a subset of nine contaminants from the first CCL, which concluded that sufficient data and

information was available to make the determination not to regulate Acanthamoeba, aldrin, dieldrin, hexachlorobutadiene, manganese, metribuzin, naphthalene, sodium, and sulfate. These nine contaminants were not carried forward to the 2005 CCL.

Does the CCL impose any requirements on public water systems?

No. The CCL alone does not impose any requirements on public water systems. However, we may regulate contaminants on the list in the future. Public water systems would have to follow specific requirements to comply with a regulation.

What happens to contaminants on the CCL?

We carry out studies to develop analytical methods for detecting the contaminants, determine whether they occur in drinking water, and evaluate treatment technologies to remove them from drinking water. We also investigate potential health effects from the contaminants. These efforts help us to determine if actions such as drinking water guidance, health advisories or regulations need to be developed for contaminants on the CCL, or if no action is necessary at this time.

What is a regulatory determination?

A regulatory determination is a formal decision on whether we should issue a national primary drinking water regulation for a specific contaminant. The law requires that we make regulatory determinations for five or more contaminants from the most recent CCL.

In 2003, we made regulatory determinations for nine contaminants from the first CCL. We plan to propose the second cycle of preliminary regulatory determinations from the second CCL in the summer of 2005 and make final regulatory determinations in August of 2006.

It is important to note that we are not limited to making regulatory determinations for only those contaminants on the CCL. We can also decide to regulate other unregulated contaminants if information becomes available showing that a specific contaminant presents a public health risk.

What criteria do EPA consider to make regulatory determinations?

When making a “determination” to regulate, the law requires that we consider three areas:

- C projected adverse health effects from the contaminant,
- C the extent of occurrence of the contaminant in drinking water, and
- C whether regulation of the contaminant would present a “meaningful opportunity” for reducing risks to health.

What is EPA doing to improve future CCLs?

During development of the first CCL, we received comments that indicated a need for a broader, more comprehensive approach for selecting contaminants. In response, we sought the advice of the National Research Council (NRC) on how we could improve the process for selecting contaminants. The NRC’s 2001 report provided us with a framework for how we could evaluate a larger number of contaminants and make decisions about those contaminants by applying innovative technologies and expert advice.

We then asked the National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC) to advise us on how to address the NRC's recommended classification process. The NDWAC's May 2004 report provided us with a number of recommendations on how the process should be managed and principles that we should use in developing future CCLs. We are reviewing the NDWAC recommendations and are on schedule to meet the February 2008 deadline for the third CCL. You can review the NDWAC report on EPA's web site at www.epa.gov/safewater/ndwac/pdfs/report_ccl_ndwac_07-06-04.pdf.

Where can I find more information about this notice and the CCL?

For information on the CCL and the contaminant selection process, please visit www.epa.gov/safewater/ccl/. For general information on drinking water, please visit the EPA Safewater website at 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 legal holidays, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern time.

Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List 2

Microbial Contaminant Candidates

Adenoviruses

Aeromonas hydrophila

Caliciviruses

Coxsackieviruses

Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae), other freshwater algae, and their toxins

Echoviruses

Helicobacter pylori

Microsporidia (Enterocytozoon & Septata)

Mycobacterium avium intracellulare (MAC)

Chemical Contaminant Candidates	CASRN
1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane	79-34-5
1,2,4-trimethylbenzene	95-63-6
1,1-dichloroethane	75-34-3
1,1-dichloropropene	563-58-6
1,2-diphenylhydrazine	122-66-7
1,3-dichloropropane	142-28-9
1,3-dichloropropene	542-75-6
2,4,6-trichlorophenol	88-06-2
2,2-dichloropropane	594-20-7
2,4-dichlorophenol	120-83-2
2,4-dinitrophenol	51-28-5
2,4-dinitrotoluene	121-14-2
2,6-dinitrotoluene	606-20-2
2-methyl-Phenol (o-cresol)	95-48-7
Acetochlor	34256-82-1

Chemical Contaminant Candidates	CASRN
Alachlor ESA & other acetanilide pesticide degradation products	N/A
Aluminum	7429-90-5
Boron	7440-42-8
Bromobenzene	108-86-1
DCPA mono-acid degradate	887-54-7
DCPA di-acid degradate	2136-79-0
DDE	72-55-9
Diazinon	333-41-5
Disulfoton	298-04-4
Diuron	330-54-1
EPTC (s-ethyl-dipropylthiocarbamate)	759-94-4
Fonofos	944-22-9
p-Isopropyltoluene (p-cymene)	99-87-6
Linuron	330-55-2
Methyl bromide	74-83-9
Methyl-t-butyl ether (MTBE)	1634-04-4
Metolachlor	51218-45-2
Molinate	2212-67-1
Nitrobenzene	98-95-3
Organotins	N/A
Perchlorate	14797-73-0
Prometon	1610-18-0
RDX	121-82-4
Terbacil	5902-51-2
Terbufos	13071-79-9

Chemical Contaminant Candidates	CASRN
Triazines & degradation products of triazines	including, but not limited to Cyanazine 21725-46-2 and atrazine-desethyl 6190-65-4
Vanadium	7440-62-2