

Columbus in the event of a Lead Action Level (LAL) exceedance under the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR). The SDWA Variance would not be effective and the City of Columbus would not be considered to be operating under a SDWA Variance unless and until the City exceeded the LAL.

DATES: The period for submission of comments ends on August 28, 2000.

ADDRESSES: All comments on the draft Final Project Agreement and draft SDWA Variance should be sent to: Miguel Del Toral, Water Division, WD-15J, US EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60604-3507, or Kristina Heinemann, U.S. EPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Mail Code 1802, Washington, DC 20460. Comments may also be faxed to Mr. Del Toral at (312) 886-6171 or Ms. Heinemann at (202) 260-7875. Comments will also be received via electronic mail sent to: deltoral.miguel@epa.gov or heinemann.kristina@epa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To obtain a copy of the draft Final Project Agreement or draft SDWA Variance, contact: Miguel Del Toral Water Division, WD-15J, U.S. EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60604-3507, or Kristina Heinemann, U.S. EPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Mail Code 1802, Washington, DC 20460. The documents are also available via the Internet at the following location: "<http://www.epa.gov/ProjectXL>". In addition, public files on the Project are located at U.S. EPA Region 5 in Chicago, IL. Questions to EPA regarding the documents can be directed to Miguel Del Toral at (312) 886-5253 or Kristina Heinemann at (202) 260-5355. Additional information on Project XL and XLC, including documents referenced in this notice, other EPA policy documents related to Project XL and XLC, application information, and descriptions of existing XL and XLC projects and proposals, is available via the Internet at "<http://www.epa.gov/ProjectXL>".

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Project XLC, announced in the **Federal Register** on November 1, 1995 (60 FR 55569), gives regulated sources the flexibility to develop alternative strategies that will replace or modify specific regulatory requirements on the condition that they produce greater environmental benefits.

In the past, the City of Columbus made certain changes to the method it uses to treat drinking water. Inadvertently, the treatment change caused an increase in the level of lead in the drinking water. Under the Federal and State drinking water regulations, if

the lead levels rise above the limit established by U.S. EPA and OEPA, the Lead Action Level, the City must begin sampling lead service lines (LSL) immediately and replacing those lines that contribute high levels of lead. See 40 CFR 141.84 and Ohio Administrative Code Rule 3745-81-84.

If implemented, the draft FPA would carry out an XLC project in the City of Columbus to test a potentially more effective means of addressing health concerns from lead through a program run by the Columbus Departments of Health and Trade and Development, the Lead Safe Columbus Program (LSCP), in addition to closer coordination on drinking water treatment issues. Through this Agreement, the US EPA would suspend the LSL sampling and replacement provisions for up to three years beginning if and when the City exceeds the lead limit, provided this occurs within six years of making a drinking water treatment change. In exchange for this regulatory flexibility, the Columbus Division of Water proposes to contribute \$300,000 a year for 15 years to the LSCP.

The LSCP provides free blood testing, public education, medical intervention for lead-poisoned children, and grants and loans for lead abatement to residents of Columbus in high-risk areas. The LSCP targets an area consisting of twenty-five high-risk census tracts within ten zip codes in older, predominantly low-income, minority neighborhoods in Columbus, where 84% of all elevated blood lead levels in the City were found.

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. 300f-300j-26, EPA promulgates national primary drinking water regulations (NPDWRs) which specify for certain drinking water contaminants either a maximum level or treatment technique with which public water systems must comply. EPA has promulgated a NPDWR for lead and copper that consists of a treatment technique requiring public water systems to take various steps to ensure that users of public water systems are not exposed to levels of lead and copper in drinking water that would result in adverse health effects.

The State of Ohio has primary enforcement responsibility for administering the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) because it has adopted regulations that are at least as stringent as the federal regulation. The State regulation currently applies to the City of Columbus's public water system. The federal government however has the authority to grant a variance under section 1415(a)(3) of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. 300g-4 and believes that a

variance would be the appropriate legal mechanism for this XLC project.

U.S. EPA has determined that the Columbus XLC Project has merit, and believes that a SDWA variance would be the appropriate legal mechanism for providing the City of Columbus the regulatory flexibility the City has requested through Project XLC.

The SDWA Variance, which will become effective only if the City of Columbus actually experiences a Lead AL exceedance, will provide the City with a temporary suspension of the LSL sampling and replacement requirements while it makes water treatment modifications. EPA has tentatively determined that the City's approach of enhanced coordination under the Lead and Copper Rule will be at least as efficient in lowering the level of lead delivered to users of the public water system as the current regulation. In addition the LSCP would provide additional public health benefits by providing free blood testing, public education, medical intervention for lead poisoned children, and grants and loans for lead abatement to residents of Columbus in high risk areas.

Dated: July 21, 2000.

Christopher Knopes,

Acting Director, Office of Environmental Policy Innovation.

[FR Doc. 00-19012 Filed 7-26-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OW-FRL-6841-7]

Nutrient Criteria Development; Notice of Nutrient Criteria Technical Guidance Manual: Rivers and Streams

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of nutrient criteria technical guidance manual: rivers and streams.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency announces the availability of a nutrient criteria technical guidance manual for Rivers and Streams. This document provides State and Tribal water quality managers and others with guidance on how to develop numeric nutrient criteria for Rivers and Streams. This document does not contain site-specific numeric nutrient criteria for any river or stream systems. This guidance was principally developed to assist States and Tribes in their efforts to establish nutrient criteria. States and Tribes are clearly in the best position to consider site-specific conditions in

developing nutrient criteria. While this guidance contains EPA's scientific recommendations regarding defensible approaches for developing regional nutrient criteria, this guidance is not regulation; thus it does not impose legally binding requirements on EPA, States, Territories, Tribes, or the public, and might not apply to a particular situation based upon the circumstances. States, Territories, and authorized Tribes retain the discretion to adopt, where appropriate, other scientifically defensible approaches for developing regional or local nutrient criteria that differ from these recommendations.

We have decided to issue technical guidance in a manner similar to that which we are using to issue new and revised criteria (see **Federal Register**, December 10, 1998, 63 FR 68354 and in the EPA document titled, National Recommended Water Quality—Correction EPA 822-Z-99-001, April 1999). Therefore, we invite the public to provide scientific views on this guidance. We will review and consider information submitted by the public on significant scientific issues that might not have otherwise been identified by the Agency during development of this guidance. This guidance has been through external peer review, and a summary of these comments is available on the Nutrient website (<http://www.EPA.gov/OST/standards/nutrient.html>). After review of the submitted significant scientific information, the Agency will publish a revised document, or publish a notice indicating its decision not to revise the document.

This document has been prepared for publication by the Office of Science and Technology, Office of Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

DATES: All significant scientific information must be submitted by September 25, 2000. Any scientific information submitted should be adequately documented and contain enough supporting information to indicate that acceptable and scientifically defensible procedures were used and that the results are likely reliable.

ADDRESSES: This notice contains a summary of the Nutrient Criteria Technical Guidance Manual: Rivers and Streams. Copies of the complete document may be obtained from EPA's Water Resource Center by phone at 202-260-7786, or by e-mail to: center.water-resource@epa.gov, or by conventional

mail to EPA Water Resource Center, RC-4100, Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20460. The document is also available electronically at: <http://www.epa.gov/OST/standards/nutrient.html>.

An original and two copies of written significant scientific information should be sent to Robert Cantilli (MC-4304), U.S. EPA, Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460. Written significant scientific information may be submitted electronically in ASCII or Word Perfect 5.1, 5.2, 6.1, or 8.0 formats to OW-General@epa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Debra Hart, USEPA, Health and Ecological Criteria Division (4304), Office of Science and Technology, Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20460; or call (202) 260-0905; fax (202) 260-1036; or e-mail hart.debra@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

On March 24, 1998, the President's Clean Water Action Plan was presented in the **Federal Register**. The Clean Water Action Plan specifically stated that EPA will establish recommended water quality criteria for nutrients that reflect the different types of water bodies and different ecoregions of the country and that will assist States and Tribes in adopting numeric water quality standards for nutrients. Consistent with the objectives of the Clean Water Action Plan, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency presented a National Strategy for the Development of Regional Nutrient Criteria on June 25, 1998. The Strategy described the approach the Agency would follow in developing nutrient information and working with States and Tribes to adopt nutrient criteria as part of State/Tribal water quality standards. The major focus of the strategy is the development of waterbody-type technical guidance and recommended ecoregion-specific nutrient criteria by the year 2000. Once EPA develops waterbody-type guidance and recommended nutrient criteria, EPA intends to assist States and Tribes in adopting numeric nutrient criteria into water quality standards by the end of 2003.

Overview of the Problem

Cultural eutrophication (*i.e.*, that associated with humans) of United States surface waters is a long-standing problem; approximately half of the reported impairments in National

waters are attributable to excess nutrients. Nitrogen and phosphorus are the primary cause of eutrophication, and algal blooms are often a response to enrichment. Within Rivers and Streams, chronic symptoms of overenrichment include low dissolved oxygen, fish kills, increased sediment accumulation, and species and abundance shifts of flora and fauna. The problem is National in scope, but varies in nature from one region of the country to another due to geographical variations in geology and soil types. For these reasons, EPA has decided to develop its recommend nutrient criteria on an ecoregional basis for use by States and Tribes.

Summary of Nutrient Criteria Technical Guidance Manual for Rivers and Streams

EPA initiated the National Strategy to Develop Regional Nutrient Criteria to address enrichment problems. The Nutrient Criteria Technical Guidance Manual: Rivers and Streams is the second of a series of waterbody-type specific manuals produced to assist EPA Regions, States, and Tribes in establishing ecoregionally appropriate nutrient criteria. EPA is also developing manuals for estuarine/coastal waters and wetlands. EPA expects States and Tribes to use these manuals as the basis for developing State water quality standards for nutrients, to help identify water quality impairments, and to evaluate the relative success in reducing cultural eutrophication. In addition to developing these waterbody-type specific manuals, EPA is developing nutrient criteria guidance under section 304(a) for each of the 14 ecoregions it has identified in the continental United States. EPA expects States and Tribes to use the manuals, other information, and local expertise to refine EPA's 304(a) nutrient criteria guidance so that the nutrient water quality criteria eventually adopted by States and Tribes are tailored to more localized conditions. In order to assist States and Tribes in this undertaking, as well as to verify section 304 (a) nutrient criteria guidance, and to provide national consistency wherever possible, EPA has established Regional Technical Assistance Groups (RTAGs). RTAGs are a collection of EPA, other Federal agencies, State, and Tribal representatives who are working together to use EPA's forthcoming section 304(a) nutrient criteria guidance as a starting point for developing more refined ecoregional nutrient criteria. (EPA is also using data and expertise provided by the RTAGs in the development of its section 304(a) nutrient criteria guidance for the 14

ecoregions it has identified.) Today's manual for Rivers and Streams also explains how States or Tribes can adopt nutrient water quality standards based on the ecoregional criteria values recommended by the EPA and/or RTAGs.

A directly prescriptive approach to nutrient criteria development is not appropriate due to regional differences that exist and the lack of a clear technical understanding of the relationship between nutrients, algal growth, and other factors (e.g., flow, light, substrata). Therefore, the approach chosen for criteria development must be tailored to meet the specific needs of each State or Tribe. The criteria development process described in this guidance can be divided into the following iterative steps.

1. Identify water quality needs and goals with regard to managing nutrient enrichment problems.
2. Classify rivers and streams first by type, and then by trophic status.
3. Select variables for monitoring nutrients, algae, macrophytes, and their impacts.
4. Design sampling program for monitoring nutrients and algal biomass in rivers and streams.
5. Collect data and build database.
6. Analyze data.
7. Develop criteria based on reference condition and data analyses.
8. Implement nutrient control strategies.
9. Monitor effectiveness of nutrient control strategies and reassess the validity of nutrient criteria.

The components of each step are explained in detail in succeeding chapters of the document. Appended to the guidance document are case studies from various ecoregions around the country and technical discussions of analytical methods, statistical analyses, and computer modeling.

The Nutrient Criteria Technical Guidance Document: Rivers and Streams that is being announced in this Notice was developed after consideration of public comment and peer review. The draft technical guidance manual for Rivers and Streams was placed on the EPA Nutrient website (<http://www.EPA.gov/OST/standards/nutrient.html>) on October 8, 1999, and EPA accepted correspondences and comments until June 23, 2000. In addition, a peer review of the proposed criteria document was conducted by a panel of five external reviewers.

Dated: July 20, 2000.

Jeanette Wiltse,

Acting Director, Office of Science and Technology.

[FR Doc. 00-19014 Filed 7-26-00; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6841-8]

Proposed CERCLA Prospective Purchaser Agreement for the Copley Square Plaza Superfund Site

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice; proposal of CERCLA prospective purchaser agreement for the Copley Square Plaza superfund site.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), 42 U.S.C. 9601 *et seq.*, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA), Public Law 99-499, notice is hereby given that a proposed prospective purchaser agreement (PPA) for the Copley Square Plaza Superfund Site (Site) located in Copley, Ohio, has been executed by Knights Runners Club Association. The proposed PPA has been submitted to the Attorney General for approval. The proposed PPA would resolve certain potential claims of the United States under sections 106 and 107 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9606 and 9607, against Knights Runners Club Association. The proposed PPA will reimburse the United States for just under 50% of its outstanding response costs incurred at the Site. The Site is not on the National Priorities List.

DATES: Comments on the proposed PPA must be received by August 28, 2000.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the proposed PPA is available for review at U.S. EPA, Region 5, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604. Please contact Kathleen Schnieders at (312) 353-8912, prior to visiting the Region 5 office.

Comments on the proposed PPA should be addressed to Kathleen Schnieders, Office of Regional Counsel, U.S. EPA, Region 5, 77 West Jackson Boulevard (Mail Code C-14J), Chicago, Illinois 60604.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kathleen Schnieders at (312) 353-8912, of the U.S. EPA Region 5 Office of Regional Counsel.

A 30-day period, commencing on the date of publication of this notice, is open for comments on the proposed

PPA. Comments should be sent to the addressee identified in this notice.

William E. Muno,

Director, Superfund Division, Region 5.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Notice of Public Information Collection(s) Being Reviewed by the Federal Communications Commission

July 14, 2000.

SUMMARY: The Federal Communications Commission, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burden invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collection(s), as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) that does not display a valid control number. Comments are requested concerning (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimate; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Written comments should be submitted on or before August 28, 2000. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments, but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by this notice, you should advise the contact listed below as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Direct all comments to Judy Boley, Federal Communications Commission, Room 1-C804, 445 12th Street, SW, DC 20554 or via the Internet to jboley@fcc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information or copies of the information collection(s), contact Judy Boley at 202-418-0214 or via the Internet at jboley@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: OMB Control No.: 3060-XXXX.