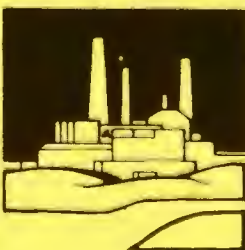




Water

EPA 440/5-86-001

QUALITY CRITERIA for WATER 1986



TO INTERESTED PARTIES

Section 304(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1314(a)(1) requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to publish and periodically update ambient water quality criteria. These criteria are to accurately reflect the latest scientific knowledge (a) on the kind and extent of all identifiable effects on health and welfare including, but not limited to, plankton, fish shellfish, wildlife, plant life, shorelines, beaches, aesthetics, and recreation which may be expected from the presence of pollutants in any body of water including ground water; (b) on the concentration and dispersal of pollutants, or their byproducts, through biological, physical, and chemical processes; and (c) on the effects of pollutants on biological community diversity, productivity, and stability, including information on the factors affecting rates of eutrophication and organic and inorganic sedimentation for varying types of receiving waters. These criteria are not rules and they do not have regulatory impact. Rather, these criteria present scientific data and guidance of the environmental effects of pollutants which can be useful to derive regulatory requirements based on considerations of water quality impacts. When additional data has become available, these summaries have been updated to reflect the latest Agency recommendations on acceptable limits for aquatic life and human health protection.

Periodically EPA and its predecessor agencies has issued ambient water quality criteria, beginning in 1968 with the "Green Book" followed by the 1973 publication of the "Blue Book" (Water Quality Criteria 1972). In 1976, the "Red Book" (Quality

Criteria for Water) was published. On November 28, 1980 (45 FR 79318), and February 15, 1984 (49 FR 5831), EPA announced through Federal Register notices, the publication of 65 individual ambient water quality criteria documents for pollutants listed as toxic under section 307(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act. On July 29, 1985 (50 FR 30784), EPA published additional water quality criteria documents.

The development and publication of ambient water quality criteria has been pursued over the past 10 years and is an ongoing process. EPA expects to publish about 10 final criteria documents each year. Some of these will update and revise existing criteria recommendations and others will be issued for the first time.

In a continuing effort to provide those who use EPA's water quality and human health criteria with up-to-date criteria values and associated information, this document Quality Criteria for Water 1986 was assembled. This document includes summaries of all the contaminants for which EPA has developed criteria recommendations (Appendix A-C). The appropriate appendix is identified at the end of each summary. A more detailed description of these procedures can be found in the appropriate Appendix. Copies of this document can be obtained by contacting the U.S. Government Printing Office at:

U.S. Government Printing Office
Superintendent of Documents
N. Capitol and H Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20401

A fee is charged for this document.

Copies of the complete background ambient water quality

criteria documents containing all the data used to develop the criteria recommendations summarized herein and the "Red Book", including complete bibliographies are available only from:

National Technical Information Service
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161

Telephone: (703) 487-4650

The NTIS order numbers for the criteria documents can be found in the Index. A fee is charged for copies of these documents.

As new criteria are developed and existing criteria revised, updated criteria summaries will be made available once a year to those who purchase this document through the U.S. Government Printing Office. You will automatically be placed on the mailing list to receive annual updates. The cost for receiving annual updates is included in the purchase price of the document.

Quality Criteria for Water, 1986 is designed to be easily updated to reflect EPA's continuing work to present the latest scientific information and practices. Our planned schedule for future criteria development in the next few years is attached for your information.

The Agency is currently developing Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) or Verified Reference Dose (RfD) values on a number of chemicals for Agency-wide use. Based upon this new analysis the values have changed significantly for 5 chemicals from those used in the original human health criteria calculation done in 1980. The chemicals affected are as follows:

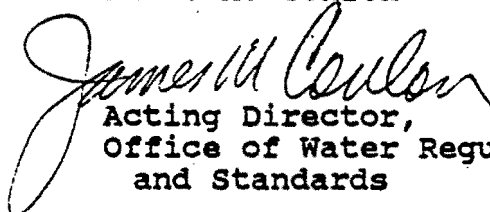
<u>Chemical</u>	<u>1980 WQC</u>	<u>Draft RfD</u>
1. Cyanide	200 ug/L	.02 mg/kg/day
2. Ethylbenzene	1.4 mg/L	.01 mg/kg/day
3. Nitrobenzene	19.8 mg/L	.0005 mg/kg/day
4. Phenol	3.5 mg/L	0.1 mg/kg/day
5. Toluene	14.3 mg/L	0.3 mg/kg/day

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Dr. Frank Gostomski at the above address or by phoning (202) 245-3030.

It is EPA's goal to continue to develop and make available ambient water quality criteria reflecting the latest scientific practices and information. In this way we can continue to improve and protect the quality of the Nation's waters.

James M. Conlon


Acting Director,
Office of Water Regulations
and Standards

DRAFT CRITERIA DOCUMENTS TO BE PROPOSED

LATE FY 86/EARLY FY 87

Diethyhexylphthalate
1,2,4, Trichlorobenzene
Silver
Phenanthrene
2,4,5, Trichlorophenol
Organotins
Tributyltin
Selenium (no saltwater criteria)
Hexachlorobenzene
Antimony III
Acrolein (no saltwater criteria)

LATE FY 87/EARLY 88

Thallium (no saltwater criteria)
Tetrachloroethylene (no saltwater criteria)
Phenol
Toluene
Chloroform (no saltwater criteria)
Aniline
Acrylonitrile
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene (no saltwater criteria)
Dimethylphenol
Hexachlorobutadiene (no saltwater criteria)

- Both lists will incorporate aquatic and human health values.

- All above are toxic pollutants except for organotins and aniline which are non-conventionals.

INDEX

INDEX

INTRODUCTION

SUMMARY CHART

	<u>NTIS No.</u>
Acenaphthene	PB 81-117269
Acrolein	PB 81-117277
Acrylonitrile	PB 81-117285
Aesthetics	PB-263943
Alkalinity	PB-263943
Aldrin/Dieldrin	PB 81-117301
Ammonia	PB 85-227114
Antimony	PB 81-117319
Arsenic	PB 85-227445
Asbestos	PB 81-117335
Bacteria	PB 86-158-045 & PB-263943
Barium	PB-263943
Benzene	PB 81-117293
Benzidine	PB 81-117343
Beryllium	PB 81-117350
Boron	PB-263943
Cadmium	PB 85-227031
Carbon Tetrachloride	PB 81-117376
Chlordane	PB 81-117384
Chlorinated Benzenes	PB 81-117392
Chlorinated Ethanes	PB 81-117400
Chlorinated Naphthalenes	PB 81-117426
Chlorine	PB 85-227429
Chlorinated Phenols	PB 81-117434
Chloroalkyl Ethers	PB 81-117418
Chloroform	PB 81-117442
Chlorophenoxy Herbicides	PB-263943
Chromium	PB 85-227478
2-Chlorophenol	PB 81-117459
Color	PB-263943
Copper	PB 85-227023
Cyanide	PB 85-227460
DDT and Metabolites	PB 81-117491
Demeton	PB-263943
Dichlorobenzenes	PB 81-117509
Dichlorobenzidine	PB 81-117517
Dichloroethylenes	PB 81-117525
2,4, - Dichlorophenol	PB 81-117533
Dichloropropanes/Dichloropropenes	PB 81-117541
2,4, - Dimethylphenol	PB 81-117558
Dinitrotoluene	PB 81-117566
Diphenylhydrazine	PB 81-117731
Endosulfan	PB 81-117574
Endrin	PB 81-117582
Ethylbenzene	PB 81-117590
Fluoranthene	PB 81-117608
Gasses, Total Dissolved	PB-263943
Guthion	PB-263943

Haloethers	PB 81-117616
Halomethanes	PB 81-117624
Hardness	PB-263943
Heptachlor	PB 81-117632
Hexachlorobutadiene	PB 81-117640
Hexachlorocyclohexane	PB 81-117657
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	PB 81-117665
Iron	PB-263943
Isophorone	PB 81-117673
Lead	PB 85-227437
Malathion	PB-263943
Manganese	PB-263943
Mercury	PB 85-227452
Methoxychlor	PB-263943
Mirex	PB-263943
Naphthalene	PB 81-117707
Nickel	PB 81-117715
Nitrates, Nitrites	PB-263943
Nitrobenzene	PB 81-117723
Nitrophenols	PB 81-117749
Nitrosamines	PB 81-117756
Oil and Grease	PB-263943
Oxygen, Dissolved	PB 86-208253
Parathion	PB-263943
Pentachlorophenol	PB 81-117764
Ph	PB-263943
Phenol	PB 81-117772
Phosphorus	PB-263943
Phthalate Esters	PB 81-117780
Polychlorinated Biphenyls	PB 81-117798
Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons	PB 81-117806
Selenium	PB 81-117814
Silver	PB 81-117822
Solids (Dissolved) & Salinity	PB-263943
Solids (Suspended) & Turbidity	PB-263943
Sulfides, Hydrogen Sulfide	PB-263943
Tainting Substances	PB-263943
Temperature	PB-263943
2,3,7,8-Tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin	EPA # 440/5-84-007
Tetrachloroethylene	PB 81-117830
Thallium	PB 81-117848
Toluene	PB 81-117855
Toxaphene	PB 81-117863
Trichloroethylene	PB 81-117871
Vinyl Chloride	PB 81-117889
Zinc	PB 81-117897

APPENDIX A Methodology for Developing Criteria

APPENDIX B Methodology for Developing Criteria

APPENDIX C Methodology for Developing Criteria

BIBLIOGRAPHY

SUMMARY CHART

Water Quality Criteria Summary

HUMAN HEALTH												
CONCENTRATIONS IN												
	Poisoning Potential	Fresh Aquatic Criteria LOEL	Fresh Chronic Criteria LOEL	Marine Acute Criteria LOEL	Marine Chronic Criteria LOEL	Water and Fish Ingestion	Fish Consumption Only	Carcinogen	Date Return	'States Standard AG LI HU H	Drinking Water MCL	
May 1, 1986												
ACENAPHTHALENE	N											
ACENAPHTHENE	Y	*1.700	*520	*970	*500	20µg			1980 FR	F		
ACROLEIN	Y	*68	*21	*55		320µg	780µg		1980 FR	F		
ACRYLONITRILE	Y	*7.550	*2.600			0.058µg	0.65µg	Y	1980 FR	F	10	
ALDRIN	Y	3		13		0.074ng	0.079ng	Y	1980 FR	F	6	
ALKALINITY	N		*20.000						1976 RB	F		
ALUMINIUM	N											
AMMONIA TOTAL	N	15.7	3.9						1985 FR	F	23	
AMMONIA UN-IONIZED	N	0.092	0.022						1985 FR	F	20	
ANILINE	N											
ANTIMONY	Y	*9.000	*1.600			146µg	45.000µg	Y	1980 FR	F		
ARSENIC	N	360	190	36	69	2.2ng	17.5ng	Y	1985 FR	F		
ARSENIC(PENT)	N	*940	*48	*2,319	*5			Y	1985 FR	F	22	
ARSENIC(TRI)	Y	44	41	69	36			Y	1985 FR	F	28	
ASBESTOS	Y					30k f.l.		Y	1980 FR	F		
BARIUM	N					1mg			1976 RB	F	13	
BENZENE	Y	*5.300		*5.100	*700	0.66µg	40µg	Y	1980 FR	F		
BENZIDINE	Y	2.500				0.12ng	0.53ng	Y	1980 FR	F	3	
BERYLLIUM	Y	*130	*5.3			3.7ng	64.1ng	Y	1980 FR	F	7	
BHC	Y	*100		*0.34					1980 FR	F	4	
BIS 2 CHLOROETHOXY METHANE	N											
BORON	N								1976 RB	F	5	
BOTTLBENZYLPHALATE	N								1980 RB	F	3	
CADMIUM	Y	3.9	1.1	43	9.3	10µg			1985 FR	F	22	
CARBAZOLE	N										27	
CARBON TETRACHLORIDE	Y	*35.200		*50.000		0.4µg	6.94µg	Y	1980 FR	F		
CHLORALKYL ETHERS	Y	*218.000				0.0038ng	1.84ng	Y	1980 FR	F		
CHLORDANE	Y	2.4	0.0043	0.004	0.07	0.46ng	0.48ng	Y	1980 FR	F		
CHLORINATED BENZENES	Y	*250	*50	*160	*129			S.	1980 FR	F		
CHLORINATED ETHANES	Y								1980 FR	F		
CHLORINATED ETHERS	N	*1.600		*7.5					1980 FR	F		
CHLORINATED NAPHTHALENES	Y	*500.000	970	*440					1980 FR	F		
CHLORINATED PHENOLS	Y								1985 FR	F		
CHLORINE	N	19	11	13	7.5							
CHLORO-4 METHYL-3 PHENOL	N	*30										
CHLOROFORM	Y	*28.900	*1.240			0.19µg	15.7µg	Y	1980 FR	F		
CHLOROPHENOL	N			*440					1980 FH	F		
CHLOROPHENOL 2	N	*4.380	*2.000	*29.700		0.1µg						
CHLOROPHENOL 4	N											
CHLOROPHENOXY HERBICIDES	Y								1976 RB	F		
CHROMIUM (HEX)	Y	16	11	1,100	50	50µg			1985 FR	F	2	
CHROMIUM (TRI)	Y	1,700	210	10,300					1985 FR	F	24	
COPPER	Y	18	12	2.9		170mg	3.433mg		1985 FR	F	20	
CYANIDE	Y	22	5.2	1		200µg			1985 FR	F	19	
DDE	Y	*1,000		*14					1985 FR	F	10	
DDT	Y										11	
DEHP	Y	1.1	0.001	0.13	0.001	0.024ng	0.024ng	Y	1980 FR	F		
DEMETON	N		*0.1	*0.1					1976 RB	F		
DIAMINO TOLUENE	N											
DIBENZOFURANS	N											
DICHLORINATED ETHANES	N	*11,800.7	*20,000	*113,000								
DICHLOROBENZENES	Y	*1.120	*763	*1,970		40µg	2.6mg	Y	1980 FR	F		
DICHLOROBENZIDINES	Y					0.0103µg	0.0204µg	Y	1980 FR	F		
DICHLOROETHYLENE	Y	*11.600		*224,000		0.033µg	1.85µg	Y	1980 FR	F		
DICHLOROPHENOL 2,4	N	*2.020	*365				0.3µg		1980 FR	F		
DICHLOROPROPANE	Y	*23,000	*5,700	10,300	*3,040				1980 FR	F		
DICHLOROPROPENE	Y	*6,060	*244	*790					1980 FR	F		
DIELDRIN	Y	2.5	0.0019	0.71	0.0019	87µg	14.1mg	Y	1980 FR	F	12	
DIMETHYL PHENOL	Y					0.071ng	0.076ng		1980 FR	F		
DIMETHYL PHENOL 2,4	Y	*2.120					400		1980 FR	F		
DIMETHYLSULFOXIDE	N											
DINITROBENZENE 1,3	N											
DINITROTOLUENE 2,4	Y	*330	*230	*590	*370	0.11µg	9.1µg	Y	1980 FR	F		
DIOXANE P	N											
DIOXIN	Y	*0.01	*0.0056			0.42ng	0.56ng	Y	1984 FR	F		
DIPHENYLHYDRAZINE	Y	*270							1980 FR	F		
DISSOLVED OXYGEN	N	6,500	4,000						1986 FR	F		
ENDOSULFAN	Y	0.22	0.056	0.034	0.0087	74µg	159µg		1980 FR	F	6	
ENDRIN	Y	0.18	0.0023	0.037	0.0023	1µg			1980 FR	F	13	
ETHYLBENZENE	Y	*32,000	*430			1.4mg	3.28mg		1980 FR	F		
FECAL COLIFORM	N											
FLUORANTHENE	Y	*3,980	*40	*16		42µg	54µg		1980 FR	F		

WATER QUALITY DEPENDENT CRITERION SEE DOCUMENT	Y YES N NO	LOEL LOWEST OBSERVED EFFECT LEVEL	Y YES S SUSPECT	FR FEDERAL REGISTER RD RED BOOK	F FINAL M.D.Y. EXPECTED DATE OF FINAL DOCUMENT							
DISSOLVED OXYGEN	N	6,500	4,000	0.034	0.0067	74µg	150µg	1986 FR	F	6	4	0.0002
ENDOSULFAN	N	0.22	0.056	0.037	0.0023	1µg	1.4mg	1980 FR	F	13	10	
ENDRIN	N	0.18	0.0023					1980 FR	F			
ETHYL BENZENE	Y	32,000		430				1980 FR	F			<1/100ML
FECAI COLIFORM	N							1980 FR	F			
FLUORANTHENE	N	3,980		140	16	42µg	54µg	1980 FR	F			
FLUORIDE	N							1976 RB	F			1.4 2.4
GUTHION	N		10.01		10.01			1980 FR	F			
HALOETHERS	N	1360	122					1980 FR	F			
HALOMETHANES	N	11,000		12,000	16,400	0.15µg	1.5µg	1980 FR	F			
HARDNESS	N							1980 FR	F			
HEPTACHLOR	N	0.52	0.0038	0.053	0.0016	0.28µg	0.29µg	1980 FR	F	5	3	
HEXACHLOROBENZENE	N	250	30	160	129	0.15µg	50µg	1980 FR	F			
HEXACHLOROBUTADIENE	N	90	9.3	32		9.2mg	11mg	1980 FR	F	7	11	0.004
HEXACHLOROCYCLOHEXANE (LINDANE)	N	2	0.08	0.15				1980 FR	F			
HEXACHLOROCYCLOPENTADIENE	N	7	15.2	7		260µg		1980 FR	F			
HEXACHLOROETHYLENES	N							1980 FR	F			
HEXACHLORINATED ETHANES	N	980	1540	1940			6.4µg	1980 FR	F			
IRON	N	1,000				0.3mg		1976 RB	F	16	17	0.3
ISOPHORONE	N	117,000		12,900		5.2mg	520mg	1980 FR	F			
LEAD	N	6.2	3.2	140	5.6	4µg		1985 FR	F	25	24	0.05
MALATHION	N		10.1		10.1			1976 RB	F			
MANGANES	N							1976 RB	F			
MERCURY	N	2.4	0.012	2.1	0.025	144µg	146µg	1980 FR	F	20	21	0.002
METHOXYCHLOR	N	0.012	0.03	0.03	0.001	100µg		1976 RB	F			0.1
MIREX	N		0.001					1976 RB	F			
NAPHTHALENE	N	12,300	1620	2,150				1985 FR	F			
NICKEL	N	1,800	96	140	1.1	13.4µg	100µg	1980 FR	F	11	7	10
NITRATES	N							1976 RB	F	20	25	
NITROANILINE	N							1976 RB	F			
NITROBENZENE	N	27,000		16,680		30µg		1980 FR	F			
NITROPHENOLS	N	230		14,850		13.4µg	1.4µg	1980 FR	F			
NITROSAMINES	N	15,850	1150	3,300,000		1.4µg	1.40mg	1976 RB	F			
OIL AND GREASE	N							1976 RB	F			
ORGANOTINS	N							1976 RB	F			
PARATHION	N		10.04		10.04			1976 RB	F			
PCB's	N	2	0.014	10	0.03	0.17mg	5.1mg	1980 FR	F	11	7	
PENTACHLORINATED ETHANES	N	1,240	1,100	1,390	26	1.1mg		1980 FR	F			
PENTACHLOROPHENOL	N	155	15.7	53	34	1.1mg		1976 RB	F			
PH	N		16.5.8	15,800	16.5.8.5	5.9		1980 FR	F	19	20	
PHENOL	N	10,200	2,360	15,800	10.01	30µg		1976 RB	F	25	19	
PHOSPHORUS	N							1980 FR	F	3	5	
PHTHALATE ESTERS	N	1940	3	2,944	3.4	15mg	52mg	1980 FR	F			
POLYCHLORINATED DIPHENYL ETHERS	N							1980 FR	F			
POLYNUCLEAR AROMATIC HYDROCARBONS	N			300		28mg	31.5mg	1980 FR	F			
SALINITY	N							1980 FR	F	23	21	0.01
SELENIUM	N	260	35	410	54	10µg		1980 FR	F	14	18	0.05
SILVER	N	4.1	0.12	7.3		50µg		1976 RB	F	56	56	
SOLIDS DISSOLVED	N					250mg		1976 RB	F			
SOLIDS SUSPENDED	N							1976 RB	F			
STYRENE	N							1976 RB	F			
SULFIDE-HYDROGEN SULFIDE	N		2		2			1976 RB	F			
TAINTING SUBSTANCES	N							1976 RB	F			
TDE	N	10.4		3.6								
TEMPERATURE	N							1980 FR	F			
TETRACHLORINATED ETHANES	N	9,420	2,400	9,070	129	38µg	48µg	1980 FR	F			
TETRACHLOROBENZENE 1,2,4,5	N	250	150	160				1980 FR	F			
TETRACHLOROETHYLENE	N	15,280	840	10,200	450	0.8µg	8.85µg	1980 FR	F			
TETRACHLOROPHENOL 2,3,4,6	N			440		1µg		1980 FR	F			
TETRAMETHYL LEAD	N							1980 FR	F			
THALLIUM	N	11,400	140	2,13		13µg	48µg	1980 FR	F			
TOLUENE	N	17,500		16,300	15,000	4.3mg	424mg	1980 FR	F			0.005
TOXAPHENE	N	16	0.013	0.07		0.71mg	0.73mg	1980 FR	F			
TRICHLORINATED ETHANES	N	18,000	9,400	31,200		0.6µg	41.8µg	1980 FR	F			
TRICHLOROBENZENE	N							1980 FR	F			
TRICHLOROBENZENE 1,2,3	N							1980 FR	F			
TRICHLOROETHYLENE	N	45,000	21,900	2,000		2.7µg	80.7µg	1980 FR	F			
TRICHLOROPHENOL 2,3,6	N							1980 FR	F			
TRICHLOROPHENOL 2,4,5	N							1980 FR	F			
TRICHLOROPHENOL 2,4,6	N		970			1µg		1980 FR	F			
VINYL CHLORIDE	N					1.2µg	3.6µg	1980 FR	F			
XYLENE	N					2µg	525µg	1980 FR	F			
ZINC	N	320	47	170	58	5mg		1980 FR	F	17	18	

CHANGES, CORRECTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS
SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO
CHRISTOPHER S. ZARBA
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
401 M STREET S.W. (WH 585)
WASHINGTON, DC 20460

PHOSPHORUS

CRITERION::

0.10 ug/L yellow (elemental) phosphorus for marine or estuarine water.

INTRODUCTION:

Phosphorus in the elemental form is particularly toxic and is subject to bioaccumulation in much the same way as mercury. Phosphorus as phosphate is one of the major nutrients required for plant nutrition and is essential for life. In excess of a critical concentration, phosphates stimulate plant growths. During the past 30 years, a formidable case has developed for the belief that increasing standing crops of aquatic plants, which often interfere with water uses and are nuisances to man, frequently are caused by increasing supplies of phosphorus. Such phenomena are associated with a condition of accelerated eutrophication or aging of waters. Generally, it is recognized that phosphorus is not the sole cause of eutrophication but there is substantiating evidence that frequently it is the key element of all of the elements required by freshwater plants, and generally, it is present in the least amount relative to need. Therefore, an increase in phosphorus allows use of other already present nutrients for plant growth. Further, of all of the elements required for plant growth in the water environment, phosphorus is the most easily controlled by man.

Large deposits of phosphate rock are found near the western shore of Central Florida, as well as in a number of other States. Deposits in Florida are found in the form of pebbles which vary

in size from fine sand to about the size of a human foot. These pebbles are embedded in a matrix of clay and sand. The phosphate rock beds lie within a few feet of the surface and mining is accomplished by using hydraulic water jets and a washing operation that separates the phosphates from waste materials. The process is similar to that of strip-mining. Florida, Idaho, Montana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, and Wyoming share phosphate mining activities.

Phosphates enter waterways from several different sources. The human body excretes about one pound per year of phosphorus expressed as "P". The use of phosphate detergents and other domestic phosphates increases the per capita contribution to about 3.5 pounds per year of phosphorus as P. Some industries, such as potato processing, have wastewaters high in phosphates. Crop, forest, idle, and urban land contribute varying amounts of phosphorus-diffused sources in drainage to watercourses. This drainage may be surface runoff of rainfall, effluent from tile lines, or return flow from irrigation. Cattle feedlots, concentrations of domestic duck or wild duck populations, tree leaves, and fallout from the atmosphere all are contributing sources.

Evidence indicates that: (1) high phosphorus concentrations are associated with accelerated eutrophication of waters, when other growth-promoting factors are present; (2) aquatic plant problems develop in reservoirs and other standing waters at phosphorus values lower than those critical in flowing streams; (3) reservoirs and lakes collect phosphates from influent streams

and store a portion of them within consolidated sediments, thus serving as a phosphate sink; and (4) phosphorus concentrations critical to noxious plant growth vary and nuisance growths may result from a particular concentration of phosphate in one geographical area but not in another. The amount or percentage of inflowing nutrients that may be retained by a lake or reservoir is variable and will depend upon: (1) the nutrient loading to the lake or reservoir; (2) the volume of the euphotic zone; (3) the extent of biological activities; (4) the detention time within a lake basin or the time available for biological activities; and (5) the level of discharge from the lake or of the penstock from the reservoir.

Once nutrients are combined within the aquatic ecosystem, their removal is tedious and expensive. Phosphates are used by algae and higher aquatic plants and may be stored in excess of use within the plant cell. With decomposition of the plant cell, some phosphorus may be released immediately through bacterial action for recycling within the biotic community, while the remainder may be deposited with sediments. Much of the material that combines with the consolidated sediments within the lake bottom is bound permanently and will not be recycled into the system.

RATIONALE:

Elemental Phosphorus

Isom (1960) reported an LC50 of 0.105 mg/L at 48 hours and 0.025 mg/L at 160 hours for bluegill sunfish, Lepomis macrochirus, exposed to yellow phosphorus in distilled water at

251

26 °C and pH 7. The 125- and 195-hour LC50's of yellow phosphorus to Atlantic cod, Gadus morhua, and Atlantic salmon, Salmo salar, smolts in continuous-exposure experiments were 1.89 and 0.79 ug/L, respectively (Fletcher and Hoyle, 1972). No evidence of an incipient lethal level was observed since the lowest concentration of p_4 tested was 0.79 ug/L. Salmon that were exposed to elemental phosphorus concentrations of 40 ug/L or less developed a distinct external red color and showed signs of extensive hemolysis. The predominant features of p_4 poisoning in salmon were external redness, hemolysis, and reduced hematocrits.

Following the opening of an elemental phosphorus production plant in Long Harbour, Placentia Bay, Newfoundland, divers observed dead fish upon the bottom throughout the Harbour (Peer, 1972). Mortalities were confined to a water depth of less than 18 meters. There was visual evidence of selective mortality among benthos. Live mussels were found within 300 meters of the effluent pipe, while all scallops within this area were dead.

Fish will concentrate elemental phosphorus from water containing as little as 1 ug/L (Idler, 1969). In one set of experiments, a cod swimming in water containing 1 ug/L elemental phosphorus for 18 hours concentrated phosphorus to 50 ug/kg in muscle, 150 ug/kg in fatty tissue, and 25,000 ug/kg in the liver (Idler, 1969; Jangaard, 1970). The experimental findings showed that phosphorus is quite stable in the fish tissues.

The criterion of 0.10 ug/L elemental phosphorus for marine or estuarine waters is .1 of demonstrated lethal levels to important marine organisms and of levels that have been found to result in significant bioaccumulation.

Phosphate Phosphorus

Although a total phosphorus criterion to control nuisance aquatic growths is not presented, it is believed that the following rationale to support such a criterion, which currently is evolving, should be considered.

Total phosphate phosphorus concentrations in excess of 100 ug/L P may interfere with coagulation in water treatment plants. When such concentrations exceed 25 ug/L at the time of the spring turnover on a volume-weighted basis in lakes or reservoirs, they may occasionally stimulate excessive or nuisance growths of algae and other aquatic plants. Algal growths impart undesirable tastes and odors to water, interfere with water treatment, become aesthetically unpleasant, and alter the chemistry of the water supply. They contribute to the phenomenon of cultural eutrophication.

To prevent the development of biological nuisances and to control accelerated or cultural eutrophication, total phosphates as phosphorus (P) should not exceed 50 ug/L in any stream at the point where it enters any lake or reservoir, nor 25 ug/L within the lake or reservoir. A desired goal for the prevention of plant nuisances in streams or other flowing waters not discharging directly to lakes or impoundments is 100 ug/L total P (Mackenthun, 1973). Most relatively uncontaminated lake districts are known to have surface waters that contain from 10 to 30 ug/L total phosphorus as P (Hutchinson, 1957).

The majority of the Nation's eutrophication problems are associated with lakes or reservoirs and currently there are more

data to support the establishment of a limiting phosphorus level in those waters than in streams or rivers that do not directly impact such water. There are natural conditions, also, that would dictate the consideration of either a more or less stringent phosphorus level. Eutrophication problems may occur in waters where the phosphorus concentration is less than that indicated above and, obviously, such waters would need more stringent nutrient limits. Likewise, there are those waters within the Nation where phosphorus is not now a limiting nutrient and where the need for phosphorus limits is substantially diminished. Such conditions are described in the last paragraph of this rationale.

There are two basic needs in establishing a phosphorus criterion for flowing waters: one is to control the development of plant nuisances within the flowing water and, in turn, to control and prevent animal pests that may become associated with such plants; the other is to protect the downstream receiving waterway, regardless of its proximity in linear distance. It is evident that a portion of that phosphorus that enters a stream or other flowing waterway eventually will reach a receiving lake or estuary either as a component of the fluid mass, as bed load sediments that are carried downstream, or as floating organic materials that may drift just above the stream's bed or float on its water's surface. Superimposed on the loading from the inflowing waterway, a lake or estuary may receive additional phosphorus as fallout from the air shed or as a direct introduction from shoreline areas.

Another method to control the inflow of nutrients, particularly phosphates, into a lake is that of prescribing an annual loading to the receiving water. Vollenweider (1973) suggests total phosphorus (P) loadings in grams per square meter of surface area per year that will be a critical level for eutrophic conditions within the receiving waterway for a particular water volume where the mean depth of the lake in meters is divided by the hydraulic detention time in years. Vollenweider's data suggest a range of loading values that should result in oligotrophic lake water quality.

Mean Depth/Hydraulic Detention Time	Oligotrophic or Permissible Loading	Eutrophic or Critical Loading
(meters/year)(grams/meter ² /year)	(grams/meter ² /year)	(grams/meter ² /year)
0.5	0.07	0.14
1.0	0.10	0.20
2.5	0.16	0.32
5.0	0.22	0.45
7.5	0.27	0.55
10.0	0.32	0.63
25.0	0.50	1.00
50.0	0.71	1.41
75.0	0.87	1.73
100.0	1.00	2.00

There may be waterways wherein higher concentrations or loadings of total phosphorus do not produce eutrophy, as well as those waterways wherein lower concentrations or loadings of total

phosphorus may be associated with populations of nuisance organisms. Waters now containing less than the specified amounts of phosphorus should not be degraded by the introduction of additional phosphates.

It should be recognized that a number of specific exceptions can occur to reduce the threat of phosphorus as a contributor to lake eutrophy: 1. Naturally occurring phenomena may limit the development of plant nuisances. 2. Technological or cost-effective limitations may help control introduced pollutants. 3. Waters may be highly laden with natural silts or colors which reduce the penetration of sunlight needed for plant photosynthesis. 4. Some waters morphometric features of steep banks, great depth, and substantial flows contribute to a history of no plant problems. 5. Waters may be managed primarily for waterfowl or other wildlife. 7. In some waters nutrient other than phosphorus is limiting to plant growth; the level and nature of such limiting nutrient would not be expected to increase to an extent that would influence eutrophication. 6. In some waters phosphorus control cannot be sufficiently effective under present technology to make phosphorus the limiting nutrient.

No national criterion is presented for phosphate phosphorus for the control of eutrophication.