

Charge to the Science Advisory Board Review of the Draft Contaminant Candidate List (CCL4) for Unregulated Contaminants in Drinking Water

BACKGROUND

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires EPA to publish a list of currently unregulated contaminants (called the Contaminant Candidate List or CCL) that are known or anticipated to occur in public water systems and which may require future regulation. The SDWA requires the agency to publish the CCL every five years. The CCL is one tool EPA uses to identify priority contaminants for future regulatory decision making and research needs. The CCL does not impose any requirements on any regulated entity. After publication of the CCL, SDWA requires the agency to determine whether or not to regulate at least five contaminants from the most current CCL, in a separate process called Regulatory Determination.

The agency published the previous CCL (the Final CCL 3) on October 8, 2009 (74 FR 51850 (USEPA, 2009e)). The CCL 3 contained 104 chemicals or chemical groups and 12 microbial contaminants. In developing CCL 3, EPA improved and built upon the process that was used for CCL 1 and CCL 2.

The CCL 3 process was developed based on recommendations from the National Academies of Sciences' National Research Council and the National Drinking Water Advisory Council. EPA used a multi-step process to select contaminants for the CCL 3, which included the following key steps:

- Identification of a broad universe of potential drinking water contaminants (the CCL 3 Universe);
- Screening the CCL 3 Universe to develop a preliminary CCL (PCCL), using criteria based on the potential to occur in public water systems and the potential for public health concern;
- Evaluation of the PCCL contaminants based on a more detailed evaluation of occurrence and health effects data, using a scoring and classification system; and
- Incorporating public input and expert review in the CCL 3 process.

EPA also considered new information on contaminants identified by surveillance efforts, which included collaboration with internal EPA offices and other federal agencies and the review of scientific publications and data. The agency provided the public with the opportunity to nominate contaminants to be considered for the Draft CCL 3 and sought public comment on the Draft CCL 3 before the list was finalized. The EPA SAB and its Drinking Water Committee reviewed the Draft CCL 3 and provided an advisory to the Administrator on January 29, 2009. SAB's recommendations on the CCL 3 process and EPA's response are summarized in the Final CCL 3 Federal Register Notice (74 FR 51850, USEPA 2009). More information on the CCL 3 can be found online at: <http://www2.epa.gov/ccl/contaminant-candidate-list-3-ccl-3>.

In May 2012, EPA sought public input by requesting nominations of contaminants to be considered for inclusion on the CCL 4. The agency evaluated the nominated contaminants and contaminants with previous negative regulatory determinations. The agency reviewed the data provided by the public and collected additional data for the nominated contaminants and contaminants with previous negative regulatory determinations. EPA used the same process for screening and scoring contaminants that was used for CCL 3 to evaluate these contaminants. For more information on CCL 4, please visit: <http://www2.epa.gov/ccl/draft-contaminant-candidate-list-4-ccl-4>.

The Draft CCL 4 was published on February 4, 2015, and includes 100 chemicals or chemical groups and 12 microbes. The list includes, among others, chemicals used in commerce, pesticides, biological toxins, disinfection byproducts, pharmaceuticals and waterborne pathogens. The agency conducted an abbreviated evaluation and selection process for CCL 4. This abbreviated CCL 4 process included a three-pronged approach: (1) carrying forward CCL 3 contaminants (except those with regulatory determinations), (2) seeking and evaluating nominations from the public for additional contaminants to consider, and (3) evaluating any new data for those contaminants with previous negative regulatory determinations from CCL 1 or CCL 2 for potential inclusion on the CCL 4.

RELEVANT SUPPORT DOCUMENTS

The Draft CCL 4 Federal Register Notice, Fact Sheet, and Technical support documents (listed below) are available for more detailed information and can be found online at: <http://www2.epa.gov/ccl/draft-contaminant-candidate-list-4-ccl-4>. For a list of CCL 3 technical support documents, see http://www2.epa.gov/ccl/contaminant-candidate-list-3-ccl-3#tech_support_docs

1. Summary of Nominations for the Fourth Contaminant Candidate List
2. Data Sources for the Contaminant Candidate List 4
3. Screening Document for the Draft PCCL 4 Nominated Contaminants
4. Contaminant Information Sheets (CISs) for the Draft Fourth Preliminary Contaminant Candidate List (PCCL 4) Nominated Contaminants
5. Final Contaminant Candidate List 3 Chemicals: Identifying the Universe
6. Final Contaminant Candidate List 3 Microbes: Identifying the Universe

CHARGE QUESTIONS

1. Please provide comment on whether or not the Draft CCL 4 support documents (listed above) are clear and transparent in presenting the approach used to list contaminants on the CCL 4. If not, do you have any suggestions on how we could improve the clarity and transparency of the support documents?
2. Please identify any additional peer-reviewed information or data collected in accordance with accepted methods which the agency should consider for CCL 4. Please see the Data Sources support document and CCL 3 Universe support document for a list of data sources that EPA used to evaluate contaminants for the Draft CCL 4.
3. Based on your expertise and experience, are there any contaminants currently on the Draft CCL 4 that you think do not merit inclusion on the list? Please provide the basis for your conclusions and any data or references.
4. Based on your expertise and experience, are there any contaminants which are currently not on the Draft CCL 4 that should be listed? Please provide the basis for your conclusions and any data or references.