



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

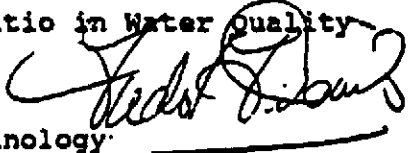
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OFFICE OF
WATER

EPA-823-B-94-001

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Use of the Water-Effect Ratio in Water Quality Standards

FROM: Tudor T. Davies, Director
Office of Science and Technology 

TO: Water Management Division Directors, Regions I - X
State Water Quality Standards Program Directors

PURPOSE

There are two purposes for this memorandum.

The first is to transmit the Interim Guidance on the Determination and Use of Water-Effect Ratios for Metals. EPA committed to developing this guidance to support implementation of federal standards for those States included in the National Toxics Rule.

The second is to provide policy guidance on whether a State's application of a water-effect ratio is a site-specific criterion adjustment subject to EPA review and approval/disapproval.

BACKGROUND

In the early 1980's, members of the regulated community expressed concern that EPA's laboratory-derived water quality criteria might not accurately reflect site-specific conditions because of the effects of water chemistry and the ability of species to adapt over time. In response to these concerns, EPA created three procedures to derive site-specific criteria. These procedures were published in the Water Quality Standards Handbook, 1983.



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