

9443.1989(03)

APR 20 1989

Ms. Lenore H. Schupak
Director, Environmental Technology
American Standard, Inc.
40 West 40th St.
New York, NY 10018

Dear Ms. Schupak:

This letter is in response to your March 7, 1989, letter regarding the proposed Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) for barium in drinking water. In addition to your support for the proposed MCLG, you suggested that the EP Toxicity level for barium (Table 1 in 40 CFR 261.24) be revised immediately upon any change to the MCL.

The EP Toxicity levels are based upon the constituents' expected fate and transport as well as their MCLs. Currently, the estimated fate and transport processes are represented by a factor of 100. That is, the EP Toxicity levels are equal to 100 times the MCLs. The Agency is currently re-evaluating the fate and transport of the EP constituents to determine whether the 100 factor is an appropriate estimate of these processes. Since this factor may change, it is not presently clear whether a change in the regulatory level (which depends upon both this factor and the MCL) would be appropriate. Therefore, needed changes to the EP regulatory levels (resulting from changes in either or both of these values) will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and any warranted changes to the regulatory levels will be proposed as modifications to 40 CFR 261.24.

Should you have any further questions on this issue, feel free to contact Reva Rubenstein, Chief of the Characteristics Section, at (202) 382-4798.

Sincerely,

Original Document signed

Sylvia K. Lowrance, Director

RO 11423

Office of Solid Waste