

White Paper: General Overview

Joseph Beaman,
Office of Science and Technology

Purpose of the White Paper

- The information contained in this document will serve as the foundation for decision-making for the subsequent development of AWQC for CECs when the need arises.
- This white paper and the recommendations it contains does not supersede the *Guidelines for Deriving Numerical National Water Quality Criteria for the Protection of Aquatic Organisms and Their Uses or "Guidelines"* (Stephan, C.E., D.I. Mount, D.J. Hansen, J.H. Gentile, G.A. Chapman and W.A. Brungs,
- Document intended to serve as supplemental information to guide the problem formulation and effects characterization of the ecological risk assessment paradigm as applied to ambient water quality criteria development for aquatic life.

Focus of the White Paper

- This white paper discusses some of the major technical issues that challenge development of AWQC for contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) specific to the use of the current *Guidelines*
- The paper also presents specific technical recommendations reflecting best available science that address those issues and may allow progress with respect to derivation of AWQC for CECs with same technical rigor currently achieved using the *Guidelines*.

Additional Considerations

- The workgroup realizes that there are other concerns inherent to the criteria derivation process that have been identified, but these concerns are not specific to CECs, nor do the recommendations presented here preclude other efforts to address these issues.
- Some of these issues are currently being addressed under separate criteria derivation or guidelines revisions efforts;
- Other issues may require additional information so that scientifically defensible methods can be developed to address them.

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