

Oklahoma Water Quality Standards Public Stakeholder Meeting

Oklahoma Water Resources Board
October 10, 2017

Methylmercury Human Health Criterion Discussion

Current Mercury Criteria

- Adopted in 1992
 - Based on 1980 EPA recommended criteria
 - 1992 Reference dose from IRIS database
- Total mercury
 - Water & organism: 0.050 ug/L
 - Organism only: 0.051 ug/L

Methylmercury Criterion

- Recommend in 2001
- Fish Tissue Based for 3 reasons
 1. Directly tied to the “fishable” beneficial use
 2. Fish tissue is the most common exposure route for Americans
 3. Environmentally relevant concentrations are easier to measure in tissue as compared to water
- Criteria Value: 0.3 mg/kg

Methylmercury Criterion

- Criteria Options
 - Adopt fish tissue value
 - Translate fish tissue value to water concentration
 - Both
- Implementation impacts ???

Implementation Questions

- Permitting
 - Pros & Cons of tissue vs. water based criterion
 - Determining reasonable potential
 - Mixing zones
 - Wastewater source control approaches
- Monitoring
 - Species to monitor
 - Site selection
 - Composite samples
 - Frequency

Implementation Questions

- Integrated Water Quality Assessment
 - Use of existing data
 - Data averaged across trophic levels
- Laboratory
 - Measure mercury at low concentrations
- DEQ Fish Tissue Advisory Program
 - Relationship between an advisory & criterion

Next Steps

- Address implementation approaches
 - Work with agency partners
 - Information sharing with stakeholders
- Future Rulemaking
 - Chapter 45: Methlymercury criterion
 - Chapter 46: Implementation provisions

Stakeholder Meetings

- Opportunity for public feedback & discussion
- Actions planned for the 2017-18 Rulemaking

Today's Meeting

- Discussion of Methyl-Mercury
- Copper site-specific criteria for discharge to Mud Creek (City of Idabel)
- Groundwater Quality Standards

Rulemaking Schedule 2017-2018

Task	Date
Public stakeholder meetings	Sept. 7 th , Oct. 10 th , & Oct 25 th
Governor & Secretary of Energy & Environment Review	November 8, 2017
Draft proposed rules available for public comment	December 1, 2017
OWRB Public Hearing & comment period closes	January 16, 2018
OWRB meeting & rule consideration	February 20, 2018
Legislative & Gubernatorial review	Spring 2018
Rules become state law	September 2018
EPA review & approval	February – March 2019

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