Message

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Subject: Announcing the availability of final 2016 freshwater aquatic life criterion for selenium

FYI

Subject: FW: Announcing the availability of final 2016 freshwater aquatic life criterion for selenium

EPA has published the final updated national aquatic life criteria for selenium in fresh water. The updated 2016 freshwater aquatic life criterion for selenium reflects the latest scientific information, which indicates that selenium toxicity to aquatic life is primarily driven by organisms consuming selenium-contaminated food rather than by being exposed only to selenium dissolved in water. Selenium is a naturally occurring element present in sedimentary rocks, shales, coal and phosphate deposits and soils, which can be released into water resources by natural sources via weathering, and by sources such as surface mining, coal-fired power plants, and irrigated agriculture. Selenium is a nutritionally essential element for animals in small amounts, but toxic at higher concentrations. Selenium bioaccumulates in the aquatic food chain and chronic exposure in fish and aquatic invertebrates can cause reproductive impairments (e.g., larval deformity or mortality). Selenium can also adversely affect juvenile growth and mortality. The

chronic criterion has four elements (two fish tissue and two water column) and replaces the previous 1999 acute and chronic selenium criteria. The revised criterion document includes information to help states to develop site specific criteria that account for differing local conditions. In addition, later this year EPA intends to release for public comment draft technical support materials to assist states in addressing implementation questions such as fish tissue monitoring. Learn more

If you have any questions please contact Kathryn Gallagher at gallager.kathryn@epa.gov