To: Bragan, Mary Jo[Bragan.Maryjo@epa.gov]
From: Behl, Betsy
Sent: Wed 3/30/2016 12:52:09 PM
Subject: Updated national 304(a) criteria for cadmium is now available.

Mary Jo, Please include this in your next update. Many Thanks. Betsy

Greetings,

I am pleased to announce that EPA has published updated 304(a) national water quality criteria for aquatic life for the metal cadmium. Acute exposure to cadmium causes mortality at elevated concentrations. Chronic exposure to cadmium negatively impacts growth, development, behavior, reproduction, and immune and endocrine systems in aquatic life. Mining and urbanization are responsible for approximately 90 percent of the cadmium found in surface waters.

The 2016 cadmium water quality criteria reflect the best available science, including the results of laboratory aquatic toxicity tests for 75 new species. In addition, the effect of total hardness (the amount of dissolved calcium and magnesium in water) on cadmium toxicity was revised with the newly acquired data. The criteria have undergone an external peer review and a 60 day public comment period.

EPA's 304(a) national water quality criteria for cadmium provide recommendations to states and tribes authorized to establish water quality standards under the Clean Water Act.

For more information look here . Please contact Mike Elias at elias.mike@epa.gov with questions.

Please share this information with interested partners and colleagues.

Elizabeth (Betsy) Behl, Director

Health and Ecological Criteria Division, 4304-T

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