

*B. How Can I Get Additional Information, Including Copies of this Document and Other Related Documents?*

1. *Electronically.* You may obtain electronic copies of this document, and certain other related documents that might be available electronically, from the EPA Internet Home Page at <http://www.epa.gov/>. To access this document, on the Home Page select "Laws and Regulations," "Regulations and Proposed Rules," and then look up the entry for this document under the "Federal Register—Environmental Documents." You can also go directly to the **Federal Register** listings at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/>.

2. *In person.* The Agency has established an official record for this action under docket control number OPP-00760. The official record consists of the documents specifically referenced in this action, any public comments received during an applicable comment period, and other information related to this action, including any information claimed as Confidential Business Information (CBI). This official record includes the documents that are physically located in the docket, as well as the documents that are referenced in those documents. The public version of the official record does not include any information claimed as CBI. The public version of the official record, which includes printed, paper versions of any electronic comments submitted during an applicable comment period, is available for inspection in the Public Information and Records Integrity Branch (PIRIB), Rm. 119, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The PIRIB telephone number is (703) 305-5805.

*C. How and to Whom Do I Submit Comments?*

You may submit comments through the mail, in person, or electronically. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, it is imperative that you identify docket control number OPP-00760 in the subject line on the first page of your response.

1. *By mail.* Submit your comments to: Public Information and Records Integrity Branch (PIRIB), Information Resources and Services Division (7502C), Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460.

2. *In person or by courier.* Deliver your comments to: Public Information and Records Integrity Branch (PIRIB),

Information Resources and Services Division (7502C), Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), Environmental Protection Agency, Rm. 119, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA. The PIRIB is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The PIRIB telephone number is (703) 305-5805.

3. *Electronically.* You may submit your comments electronically by e-mail to: [opp-docket@epa.gov](mailto:opp-docket@epa.gov), or you can submit a computer disk as described above. Do not submit any information electronically that you consider to be CBI. Avoid the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Electronic submissions will be accepted in WordPerfect 6.1/8.0 or ASCII file format. All comments in electronic form must be identified by docket control number OPP-00760. Electronic comments may also be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

*D. How Should I Handle CBI that I Want to Submit to the Agency?*

Do not submit any information electronically that you consider to be CBI. You may claim information that you submit to EPA in response to this document as CBI by marking any part or all of that information as CBI. Information so marked will not be disclosed except in accordance with procedures set forth in 40 CFR part 2. In addition to one complete version of the comment that includes any information claimed as CBI, a copy of the comment that does not contain the information claimed as CBI must be submitted for inclusion in the public version of the official record. Information not marked confidential will be included in the public version of the official record without prior notice. If you have any questions about CBI or the procedures for claiming CBI, please consult the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

*E. What Should I Consider as I Prepare My Comments for EPA?*

You may find the following suggestions helpful for preparing your comments:

1. Explain your views as clearly as possible.
2. Describe any assumptions that you used.
3. Provide copies of any technical information and/or data you used that support your views.
4. If you estimate potential burden or costs, explain how you arrived at the estimate that you provide.
5. Provide specific examples to illustrate your concerns.

6. Offer alternative ways to improve the notice or collection activity.

7. Make sure to submit your comments by the deadline in this notice.

8. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, be sure to identify the docket control number assigned to this action in the subject line on the first page of your response. You may also provide the name, date, and **Federal Register** citation.

**II. Tentative Agenda:**

This unit provides tentative agenda topics for the 1-day meeting.

1. Welcome and introductions.
2. Old action items.
3. Model status updates.
4. Spray drift exposure modeling.
5. Rice modeling and ricenet.
6. Turf monitoring progress report.
7. USDA Root Zone Water Quality Model (RZWQM) update.

**List of Subjects**

Environmental protection, Pesticides and pests.

Dated: February 20, 2002.

**Elizabeth Leovey,**

*Acting Director, Environmental Fate and Effects Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.*

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**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[OW-FRL-7151-2]

**Nutrient Criteria Development; Notice of Ecoregional Nutrient Criteria**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice of Ecoregional Nutrient Criteria for Lakes and Reservoirs, and Rivers and Streams.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Section 304(a) of the Clean Water Act (CWA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announces the publication and availability of nine additional Section 304(a) ecoregional nutrient criteria documents for lakes and reservoirs, and rivers and streams within specific geographic regions (ecoregions) of the United States. These nine documents supplement the seventeen ecoregional nutrient criteria documents for lakes and reservoirs, rivers and streams and wetlands announced by EPA on January 9, 2001 (66 FR 1671). These documents give States, Territories, and authorized Tribes (Hereafter, this **Federal Register** Notice refers to these entities as "States and authorized Tribes." Throughout this document, reference to States and

Authorized Tribes is intended to include Territories) information to develop numeric nutrient criteria for lakes and reservoirs, rivers and streams, and wetlands within several different nutrient ecoregions. An ecoregion is a geographic area with assumed relative homogeneity of ecological characteristics. EPA's section 304(a) criteria recommendations represent enrichment conditions (total phosphorous, total nitrogen, chlorophyll *a* and some form of water clarity, i.e. Secchi depth or turbidity) of surface waters that are minimally affected by human activities and to provide for the protection and propagation of aquatic life and recreation. Draft criteria documents have undergone external peer review, and a summary of these comments is available on EPA's Internet website: (<http://www.epa.gov/ost/standards/nutrient.html>).

While the nine documents available today contain EPA's scientific recommendations regarding ecoregional nutrient criteria, the information and recommendations are not regulations and do not impose legally binding requirements on EPA, States, authorized Tribes, or the public. They may not apply to a particular situation based upon the circumstances. States and authorized Tribes retain the discretion to adopt water quality criteria that differ from these recommendations based on other scientifically defensible approaches to developing regional or local nutrient criteria. EPA may revise these section 304(a) water quality criteria recommendations in the future.

EPA is making these recommended section 304(a) nutrient water quality criteria available to the public in accordance with the Agency's process for publishing new and revised criteria (see **Federal Register**, December 10, 1998, 63 FR 68354 and in the EPA document titled, "National Recommended Water Quality—Correction," EPA 822-Z-99-001, April 1999). EPA invites the public to provide scientific views on these criteria. EPA will review and consider information submitted on significant scientific issues and site-specific data that might not have otherwise been identified by the Agency during development of these criteria. After EPA reviews the new information, the Agency may publish revised nutrient water quality criteria recommendations or publish a notice informing the public that the submitted information does not warrant revision of the criteria.

EPA encourages the public to provide additional data that could help States and or authorized Tribes refine these recommended nutrient water quality

criteria. EPA identified specific sections within each document where the public could greatly assist States and authorized Tribes in the task of augmenting the database for deriving ecoregional nutrient water quality criteria. For example, the public can provide information about the historical conditions and trends of the water resources within an ecoregion related to eutrophication resulting from human activities. EPA will forward all comments received on a particular ecoregional criterion or set of criteria to the appropriate State or Tribe to help foster water quality criteria refinement.

EPA's Office of Water, Office of Science and Technology prepared this document. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

**DATES:** EPA will accept significant scientific information submitted to the Agency within 90 days of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. You should adequately document any scientific information and provide enough supporting information to indicate that acceptable and scientifically defensible procedures were used and that the results are reliable.

**ADDRESSES:** You can get copies of the set or any document from the U.S. National Service Center for Environmental Publications (NSCEP), 11029 Kenwood Road, Cincinnati, OH 45242; (513) 489-8190 or toll free (800) 490-9198. The documents are also available electronically at <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/standards/nutrient.html>. The waterbody-specific technical guidance manuals, which present the nutrient criteria derivation methodology used by EPA to develop the nutrient water quality criteria, are also available from EPA's nutrient website. Please send an original and two copies of written significant scientific information to Robert Cantilli (MC-4304), U.S. EPA, Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20460. Written significant scientific information may be submitted electronically in ASCII or Word Perfect 5.1, 5.2, 6.1, 8.0 or 9.0 formats to [OW-General@epa.gov](mailto:OW-General@epa.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Robert Cantilli, U.S. EPA, Health and Ecological Criteria Division (4304), Office of Science and Technology, Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20460; or call (202) 566-1091; or e-mail [cantilli.robert@epa.gov](mailto:cantilli.robert@epa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** States and Tribes consistently identify excessive

levels of nutrients as a major reason why as much as half of the surface waters surveyed in this country do not meet water quality objectives, such as full support of aquatic life. In 2000, EPA published nutrient criteria technical guidance manuals for lakes and reservoirs and for rivers and streams, and in 2001 EPA published a draft guidance manual for estuarine and coastal marine waters. These manuals provide techniques for assessing nutrient conditions as well as methods for developing nutrient criteria for specific water body types. These and related documents are available from EPA's nutrient website: <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/standards/nutrient.html>. EPA is currently developing a guidance manual for wetlands.

In addition to developing guidance for specific waterbody types, EPA will publish specific nutrient water quality criteria recommendations under section 304(a) for every type of waterbody (where applicable) for all of the 14 nutrient ecoregions that EPA identified in the continental United States. On January 9, 2001, EPA announced the availability of ecoregional nutrient criteria documents for lakes and reservoirs in eight ecoregions, for rivers and streams in eight ecoregions (several of which overlap with the eight ecoregions for lakes and reservoirs), and for wetlands in one ecoregion. Those ecoregions were chosen based on the availability of nutrient data within each ecoregion. Today, EPA announces the availability of nine additional ecoregional nutrient criteria documents for lakes and reservoirs, and rivers and streams in ecoregions for which criteria recommendations were not developed in January 2001. These nine bring the total of ecoregional nutrient criteria documents to 26 and results in nutrient criteria covering about 90% of the freshwater waterbodies of the U.S. (excluding wetlands).

EPA also provided guidance on development and adoption of nutrient criteria into water quality standards. More recently, on November 14, 2001, Geoffrey H. Grubbs, Director of the Office of Science and Technology, in EPA's Office of Water provided this guidance to EPA, and State and Interstate Water Program Directors. This memorandum can be viewed electronically at: <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/standards/nutrient.html>

Dated: February 15, 2002.

**Geoffrey H. Grubbs,**  
Director, Office of Science and Technology.  
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