Final Aquatic Life Ambient Water Quality Criteria For Ammonia—Freshwater 2013

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability of final criteria.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 304(a) of the Clean Water Act (CWA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing the availability of final national recommended ambient water quality criteria for the protection of aquatic life from effects of ammonia in freshwater. The final criteria incorporate the latest scientific knowledge on the toxicity of ammonia to freshwater aquatic life. On December 30, 2009, EPA published draft national recommended water quality criteria for ammonia and provided the public an opportunity to provide scientific views. Aquatic life criteria are developed based on EPA’s Guidelines for Deriving Numerical National Water Quality Criteria for the Protection of Aquatic Organisms and Their Uses (1985), (EPA/R–85–100). These guidelines describe the Agency’s approach for deriving national recommended water quality criteria for ammonia. These final criteria are intended to protect aquatic life and do not address human health toxicity data. The water quality criteria for ammonia for the protection of saltwater organisms are not being updated at this time. EPA’s national recommended final acute ambient water quality criteria (AWQC) for protecting freshwater organisms from potential effects of ammonia is 17 mg/L total ammonia nitrogen (TAN) and the final chronic AWQC for ammonia is 1.9 mg/L TAN at pH 7.0 and temperature 20 °C.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: EPA’s recommended water quality criteria do not substitute for the CWA or regulations, nor are they regulations themselves. Thus, EPA’s recommended criteria do not impose legally binding requirements. States and authorized Tribes have the discretion to adopt, where appropriate, other scientifically defensible water quality criteria that differ from these recommendations.

II. What is ammonia and why is EPA concerned about it?

Ammonia is a constituent of nitrogen pollution. Unlike other forms of nitrogen, which can cause eutrophication of a water body at elevated concentrations, the primary concern with ammonia is its direct toxic effects on aquatic life, which are exacerbated by elevated pH and temperature. Ammonia is considered one of the most important pollutants in the aquatic environment not only because of its highly toxic nature and occurrence in surface water systems, but also because many effluents have to be treated in order to keep the concentrations of ammonia in surface waters from being unacceptably high. Ammonia can enter the aquatic environment via direct means such as municipal effluent discharges and the excretion of nitrogenous wastes from animals, and indirect means such as nitrogen fixation, air deposition, and runoff from agricultural lands.

III. What are the 2013 ammonia criteria recommendations?

EPA is today publishing final national recommended ambient water quality criteria for protecting freshwater aquatic life for ammonia. These final criteria updates are based on EPA’s Guidelines for Deriving Numerical National Water Quality Criteria for the Protection of Aquatic Organisms and Their Uses (1985), (EPA/R–85–100). These Guidelines describe the Agency’s current approach for deriving national recommended water quality criteria to protect aquatic life. The latest toxicity data and other information on the effects of ammonia on freshwater aquatic life were obtained from reliable sources and subjected to both internal and external scientific peer review. The national recommended water quality criteria for ammonia in saltwater are not being updated at this time.

The available data for ammonia, evaluated in accordance with EPA’s Guidelines for Deriving Numerical National Water Quality Criteria for the Protection of Aquatic Organisms and Their Uses (1985), indicate that freshwater aquatic animals would have
IV. What new data have been included in the 2013 ammonia criteria recommendations?

Since the publication of the 1999 Update of Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Ammonia (EPA–822–R–99–014), numerous new scientific studies were published indicating that freshwater mussels are more sensitive to ammonia than the organisms represented in the 1999 criteria dataset, and that snails, another freshwater mollusk group, are also sensitive to ammonia. EPA evaluated the new toxicity data per EPA’s 1985 Guidelines for deriving aquatic life criteria (Stephan et al., 1985) and incorporated the acceptable data in calculating the final criteria for ammonia. The final recommended acute and chronic criteria for ammonia presented in this document are protective of the aquatic community, including freshwater mussels.

V. What is the relationship between the ammonia criteria recommendations and state or tribal water quality criteria?

Water quality standards consist of three principal elements: Designated uses, water quality criteria to protect those uses, and antidegradation requirements, providing for protection of existing water uses and limitations on degradation of high quality waters. As part of the water quality standards triennial review process defined in Section 303(c)(1) of the CWA, the States and authorized Tribes are responsible for developing, maintaining and revising water quality standards. Section 303(c)(1) requires States and authorized Tribes to review and modify, if appropriate, their water quality standards at least once every three years.

States and authorized Tribes must adopt water quality criteria into their water quality standards that protect designated uses. States may develop their criteria based on EPA’s recommended section 304(a) water quality criteria or other scientifically defensible methods. A state’s criteria must contain sufficient parameters or constituents to protect the designated uses. Consistent with 40 CFR 131.21, new or revised water quality criteria adopted into law by States and authorized Tribes on or after May 30, 2000 are in effect for CWA purposes only after EPA approval.

States and authorized Tribes may also develop site-specific criteria for particular waterbodies as appropriate, following EPA procedures described in the Guidelines for Deriving Numerical Aquatic Site-Specific Water Quality Criteria by Modifying National Criteria (USEPA, 1984f). A site-specific criterion is intended to come closer than the national criterion to providing the intended level of protection to the aquatic life at that particular site, usually by taking into account the biological and/or chemical conditions (i.e., the species composition and/or water quality characteristics) at that site.

VI. Where can I find more information about water quality criteria and water quality standards?

The EPA has developed supporting documents to aid states considering adoption of the 2013 recommended ammonia criteria. Flexibilities for States Applying EPA’s Ammonia Criteria Recommendations (EPA 800–F–13–001) provides an overview of a number of flexibilities available for state consideration, including the Revised Deletion Process for the Site-Specific Recalculation Procedure for Aquatic Life Criteria (EPA 823–R–13–001). For example, if freshwater mussel species are not resident at a site, the Revised Deletion Process for the Site-Specific Recalculation Procedure for Aquatic Life Criteria might be used to recalculate the criteria without these species.
Aquatic Organisms and Their Uses (EPA 822/R–85–100); National Strategy for the Development of Regional Nutrient Criteria (EPA 822–R–98–002); and EPA Review and Approval of State and Tribal Water Quality Standards (65FR24641).

You can find these publications through EPA’s National Service Center for Environmental Publications (NSCEP, previously NCEPI) or on the Office of Science and Technology’s Home-page (http://www.epa.gov/waterscience).


Nancy K. Stoner,
Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Water.

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FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection Renewal; Comment Request

AGENCY: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

ACTION: Notice and request for comment.

SUMMARY: The FDIC, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the renewal of existing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35). Currently, the FDIC is soliciting comment on renewal of the information collections described below.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before October 21, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties are invited to submit written comments to the FDIC by any of the following methods:

• http://www.FDIC.gov/regulations/guidance.

• Email: comments@fdic.gov. Include the name of the collection in the subject line of the message.

• Mail: Gary A. Kuiper (202.898.3877), Counsel, Room NYA–5046, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, 550 17th Street NW., Washington, DC 20429.

• Hand Delivery: Comments may be hand-delivered to the guard station at the rear of the 17th Street Building (located on F Street), on business days between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

All comments should refer to the relevant OMB control number. A copy of the comments may also be submitted to the OMB desk officer for the FDIC: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gary A. Kuiper, at the FDIC address above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Proposal to renew the following currently-approved collections of information:

1. Title: Interagency Guidance on Asset Securitization.

OMB Number: 3064–0137.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 6.

Estimated Time per Response: 25 hours.

Total estimated annual burden: 150 hours.

2. OMB Number: 3064–0148.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 6.

Estimated Time per Response: 25 hours.

Total estimated annual burden: 150 hours.

General Description of Collection: The Interagency Guidance on Asset Securitization Activities informs bankers and examiners of safe and sound practices regarding asset securitization. The information collections contained in the Interagency Guidance are needed by institutions to manage their asset securitization activities in a safe and sound manner. Bank management uses this information as the basis for the safe and sound operation of their asset securitization activities and to ensure that they minimize operational risk in these activities.

3. Title: Reverse Mortgage Products Guidance.

OMB Number: 3064–0176.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 48.

Estimated Time per Response: 8 hours.

Total estimated annual burden: 384 hours.

General Description of Collection: The guidance sets forth standards intended to ensure that insured depository institutions effectively assess and manage the compliance and reputation risks associated with reverse mortgage products.

Request for Comment

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collections of information are necessary for the proper performance of the FDIC’s functions, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the estimates of the burden of the information collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Dated at Washington, DC, this 19th day of August 2013.

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Robert E. Feldman,
Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2013–20486 Filed 8–21–13; 8:45 am]
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FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Change in Bank Control Notices; Acquisitions of Shares of a Bank or Bank Holding Company

The notificants listed below have applied under the Change in Bank Control Act (12 U.S.C. 1817(j)) and § 225.41 of the Board’s Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.41) to acquire shares of a bank or bank holding company. The factors that are considered in acting on the notices are set forth in paragraph 7 of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1817(j)(7)).

The notices are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The notices also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing to the Reserve Bank indicated for that notice or to the offices of the Board of Governors. Comments must be received not later than September 6, 2013.