



Revised Deletion Process for the Site-Specific Recalculation Procedure for Aquatic Life Criteria

Summary

EPA has published a revision to one of its recommended procedures for deriving site-specific water quality criteria for the protection of aquatic life. The *Revised Deletion Process for the Site-Specific Recalculation Procedure for Aquatic Life Criteria* (or "the 2013 Revised Recalculation Procedure") is intended to provide flexibility to States to tailor criteria development to reflect the aquatic community at a given site. The 2013 Revised Recalculation Procedure provides a clear, consistent process to determine which aquatic toxicity test data are most appropriate for use in deriving aquatic life criteria at a particular site. Criteria based on the 2013 Revised Recalculation Procedure may be more or less stringent compared to those derived using EPA's previously recommended (1997) procedure, depending on which aquatic species are present at a given site. EPA is providing information only; states and authorized tribes are not required to use this procedure when developing site-specific criteria.

National recommended aquatic life ambient water quality criteria

Under Clean Water Act section 304(a), EPA is required to develop and publish water quality criteria that reflect the latest scientific knowledge. EPA's recommended water quality criteria are not rules, nor do they automatically become part of a state's water quality standards. States must adopt into their standards water quality criteria that protect the designated uses of the water bodies within their area. These can include scientifically defensible site-specific criteria that are different from EPA's national recommended criteria, as long as the site-specific criteria are protective of the designated use.

Purpose of the Recalculation Procedure

The *Recalculation Procedure* is intended to provide flexibility to States to tailor criteria development to the aquatic life that occur at a particular site. EPA developed the *Recalculation Procedure* in 1984 to take into account relevant differences between the sensitivities of laboratory tested surrogate aquatic organisms used to develop EPA's national recommended aquatic life criteria and the sensitivities of aquatic organisms that occur at a particular site (e.g., watershed, lake, stream, etc.).

The 2013 Revised Recalculation Procedure provides a clear, step-by-step process to determine which aquatic toxicity test data are most appropriate for use in deriving aquatic life criteria at a particular site. The revision is intended to make more consistent the process used to develop site-specific sensitivity distributions of aquatic organisms. EPA previously revised the original (1984) *Recalculation Procedure* in 1994 and 1997.

How to View the 2013 Revised Recalculation Procedure

You may download the document from <http://water.epa.gov/scitech/swguidance/standards/criteria/aqlife/index.cfm>.

For More Information

Contact Charles Delos by telephone at (202) 566-1097, by email at delos.charles@epa.gov, or by mail at U.S. EPA, MC: 4304T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20460.