

Public Hearings on Proposed Revision of Washington State Fish Consumption Criteria (Newsletter)*

October 30, 2015

On September 14, 2015, EPA published a proposed rule to revise current federal Clean Water Act human health criteria applicable to Washington state waters. The intent is to ensure that criteria are set at levels protective of exposure to toxic pollutants by fish consumers. EPA established Washington's existing criteria in 1992 as part of the National Toxics Rule, using the Agency's then-current recommended criteria values. EPA's proposed rule updates these rates based on more recent regional and local fish consumption data and updates toxicity and exposure parameters used to calculate human health criteria. The proposal also takes into account applicable EPA policies, guidance, and legal requirements. Public comments on the proposed rule must be received on or before December 28, 2015.

EPA offers two virtual public hearings for interested parties to provide oral comments on the proposed rule. Following a brief EPA presentation each commenter will be allowed three minutes to present his or her views. Also, commenters have the option to submit accompanying visual aids. The hearings will be recorded and transcribed, and EPA will consider all of the oral comments provided along with the written public comments submitted via the docket for this rulemaking. The dates and times of the hearings are as follows:

Tuesday, December 15, 2015: 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. PST
Wednesday, December 16, 2015: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. PST

For more information on the proposed rule, including details on the public hearings and a link to register, visit: <http://www2.epa.gov/wqs-tech/water-quality-standards-regulations-washington>.

If you are unable to attend any of these hearings, you can submit comments by other means. Submit written comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2015-0174, by one of the following methods:

Web Site: www.regulations.gov (Follow on-line instructions for submitting comments.)

Email: OW-docket@epa.gov

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Snail Mail to: Water Docket, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Mail code: 2822T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460, Attention: Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2015-0174. Hand Delivery: EPA Docket Center, WJC West Building Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004, Attention Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2015-0174. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Docket's normal hours of operation, and special arrangements should be made for deliveries of boxed information.

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