

**Charge to the Science Advisory Board
Review of the Draft Fifth Contaminant Candidate List (CCL 5) for
Unregulated Contaminants in Drinking Water**

BACKGROUND

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires EPA to publish, every five years, a list of currently unregulated contaminants that are known or anticipated to occur in public water systems and which may require regulation. The Draft Fifth Contaminant Candidate List (CCL 5) includes 66 chemicals, 3 chemical groups (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), cyanotoxins, and disinfection byproducts), and 12 microbes. These contaminants were selected from a chemical universe and microbial universe comprised of chemicals used in commerce, disinfection byproducts, pesticides, biological toxins, and waterborne pathogens.

To develop the Draft CCL 5, EPA followed the stepwise process first used to develop the CCL 3. This process was based on recommendations from the Science Advisory Board (SAB), National Academy of Science's National Research Council, and National Drinking Water Advisory Council. The process steps include (1) building a broad universe, (2) screening the universe to identify a Preliminary Contaminant Candidate List (PCCL), and (3) evaluating PCCL contaminants to select the Draft CCL 5.

In this cycle, EPA improved the CCL development process in response to comments from the SAB and the public on prior CCLs. These improvements included using new approaches to rapidly screen a significantly larger universe of chemicals for the CCL 5, prioritizing data most relevant to drinking water exposure, and enhancing evaluations of sensitive populations, including children. These improvements resulted in a Draft CCL 5 that can better support prioritization of contaminants for regulatory evaluation and research.

Specifically, in Step 1 of the CCL 5 process, EPA prioritized and extracted data elements for the chemical universe that were most relevant to meeting the SDWA requirement for selecting contaminants that present the greatest public health concern. To further support the SDWA requirement, in Step 2 of the CCL 5 process, EPA established and applied a data-driven point-based screening system to identify and prioritize chemicals for the PCCL. In Step 3 of the CCL 5 process, EPA included PFAS, cyanotoxins, and disinfection byproducts as three priority groups of drinking water contaminants of concern for inclusion on the Draft CCL 5. In addition, EPA re-evaluated all 12 microbial exclusionary screening criteria used in previous CCLs and modified Criterion 9 to include pathogens on the PCCL with nosocomial infections where drinking water is implicated. For more information on these improvements and additional modifications made to the CCL process in response to SAB recommendations, please see the relevant documents listed below.

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

1. Federal Register Notice: Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List 5-Draft
2. Technical Support Document for the Draft Fifth Contaminant Candidate List (CCL 5)-Chemical Contaminants
3. Technical Support Document for the Draft Fifth Contaminant Candidate List (CCL 5)-Microbial Contaminants
4. Draft CCL 5 Contaminant Information Sheets Technical Support Document

CHARGE QUESTIONS

1. Please comment on whether the Federal Register Notice (FRN) published on July 19, 2021 (86 FR 37948) (Docket ID Number EPA-HQ-OW-2018-0594) and associated support documents are clear and transparent in presenting the approach used to list contaminants on the Draft CCL 5. If not, please provide suggestions on how EPA could improve the clarity and transparency of the FRN and the support documents.
2. Please comment on the process used to derive the Draft CCL 5, including but not limited to, the CCL 5 improvements to assess potential drinking water exposure, consider sensitive populations, and prioritize contaminants that represent the greatest potential public health concern.
3. Based on your expertise and experience, are there any contaminants currently on the Draft CCL 5 that should not be listed? Please provide peer-reviewed information or data to support your conclusion.
4. Based on your expertise and experience, are there any contaminants which are currently not on the Draft CCL 5 that should be listed? Please provide peer-reviewed information or data to support your conclusion.