



Technical Basis for Deriving Sediment Quality Criteria for Nonionic Organic Contaminants for the Protection of Benthic Organisms by Using Equilibrium Partitioning

AUTHORITY

Sediment quality criteria are published pursuant to Section 304(a) of the Clean Water Act and may form the basis for enforceable standards if adopted by a State into water quality standards. The criteria reflect the latest scientific knowledge on the concentration of a nonionic organic contaminant that EPA has determined causes or has the potential to cause adverse effects on benthic organisms. They are developed using an approach described in the Technical Basis for Deriving Sediment Quality Criteria for Nonionic Organic Contaminants for the Protection of Benthic Organisms by Using Equilibrium Partitioning (EPA-822-R-93-011).

BACKGROUND

The approach was selected after considering a variety of approaches that could be used to assess sediment contamination. Technical reviews of the methodology and supporting science was conducted by the EPA Science Advisory Board in February 1989 and June 1992. It was found that this approach established a causative link between the bioavailable fraction of a contaminant in the sediment and the effects on benthic organisms.

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENT

Copies of the technical basis document (EPA-822-R-93-011) and other related documents, may be obtained from

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