



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
WATER

OCT 18 1993

Dear Colleagues:

We are pleased to announce the availability of two recent publications from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water.

1. PROCEEDINGS DOCUMENT--PCBs in Fish Tissue

Proceedings of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's "National Technical Workshop on PCBs in Fish Tissues, EPA/823-R-93-003, September 1993." The workshop was held on May 10-11, 1993 in Washington D.C.

The primary purpose of the workshop was to transfer current information about polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) to states and other parties involved in risk assessment and fish consumption advisories. The workshop was structured to encourage an exchange of information between the users of fish tissue data (such as risk assessors) and generators of PCB data (such as laboratory personnel). This exchange is important because the analysis of PCBs in fish tissues involves a complex set of considerations including PCB toxicity information, laboratory analytical techniques, exposure data, etc. The workshop was divided into four main parts: an introduction to PCBs, PCB toxicity and health effects, analytical methods, and four case studies to illustrate how human health assessments may be affected by the assumptions and analytical complexities.

The proceedings document is approximately 300 pages and is composed primarily of summaries and key graphics for each of the individual presentations at the workshop. Because of its technical nature, the document would be of interest to environmental professionals with an in-depth interest in PCBs.

Copies of this document can be obtained by calling the Office of Water Resource Center at (202) 260-7786 or writing to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Water Resource Center (RC4100), 401 M. Street S.W., Washington D.C. 20460. Please include the document title and publication number noted above.

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2. GUIDANCE DOCUMENT: FISH SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS

Guidance For Assessing Chemical Contaminant Data For Use in Fish Advisories, Volume 1: Fish Sampling and Analysis. The purpose of the document is to provide guidance to State agencies on methods for sampling and analyzing chemical contaminants in fish and shellfish tissues.

The information in this 350 page document is highly technical. The guidance is designed to assist state personnel and other environmental professionals who sample and analyze fish tissues. It addresses such topics as monitoring strategies, selection of target fish species, identification and screening values for chemicals to sample, field procedures, laboratory procedures for sample handling and sample analysis, and recommendations on data analysis and reporting.

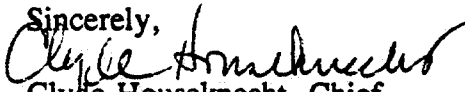
The Sampling and Analysis guidance is the result of a two year collaborative effort between EPA and numerous other agencies. The resulting guidance should help improve the comparability of data that underlies state fish consumption advisory programs. It is important to recognize that this manual provides guidance only and does not constitute a regulatory requirement for the States.

This guidance is the first in a series of four documents to be prepared by the EPA Office of Water. Volume 2, *Risk Assessment*, is currently under development with an anticipated publication date of early 1994. We hope to start work on Volume 3, *Risk Management*, later this year with an estimated completion date of January, 1995. The fourth and final volume, *Risk Communication*, is now in the early planning stages. It is scheduled for completion in the summer of 1994. Each of these documents will be developed in a cooperative fashion with state agencies and others.

Copies of this document can be obtained by writing to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Fish Contamination Section (4305), 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460.

We appreciate your continued interest in EPA's activities related to chemical contaminants in fish.

Sincerely,


Clyde Houseknecht, Chief
Fish Contamination Section