

PEER REVIEW PLAN

Title:

PROCEDURES FOR THE DERIVATION OF EQUILIBRIUM PARTITIONING SEDIMENT BENCHMARKS (ESBS) FOR THE PROTECTION OF BENTHIC ORGANISMS: COMPENDIUM OF TIER 2 VALUES FOR NONIONIC ORGANICS

Purpose/Objective:

The equilibrium partitioning sediment benchmark (ESB) document prepared by scientists at the Atlantic Ecology Division and Mid-Continent Ecology Division describes procedures to determine what amounts of 32 nonionic organic chemicals in sediment are considered non-toxic or safe to benthic organisms such as worms, clams and shrimp. The equilibrium partitioning (EqP) approach was chosen because it is based on the concentrations of chemical(s) that are known to be harmful and bioavailable in the environment. This document, and four others published over the last five years and one more to be released in the next few years, will be useful for the program offices, including Superfund, and Regions in conducting contaminated sediment assessments. The documents represent approximately 15 years of research and development by scientists working within EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD), as well as the Office of Water, and review of the scientific approach by the Agency's Science Advisory Board (SAB). Originally, this document was to be published by the Office of Water as a formal sediment quality criterion (SQC), but the decision was made approximately seven years ago for ORD to publish this and the other ESBs as technical information. Consequently, the document is being published purely to aid in conducting sediment assessments.

Product Completion Date (Actual):

02/28/2008

OMB Category:

Influential

Peer Review Leader:

Virginia Houk
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External Peer Review Mechanism:

Letter Review by Independent Subject Experts

Peer Review Expected to Begin:

2nd Quarter, Fiscal Year 2007

EPA's Fiscal Years run from October to September.
Quarters for Fiscal Year 2007:
1st: October - December, 2006
2nd: January - March, 2007
3rd: April - June, 2007
4th: July - September, 2007

Was a deferral to peer review invoked?	No
Will an alternative peer review process be employed?	No
Number of Peer Reviewers	4 to 10
Primary Disciplines needed in the review:	
Who will select the reviewers?	EPA
Will the public, including scientific or professional societies be asked to nominate peer reviewers?	No
Will public nominations be allowed through the Peer Review Agenda?	No
Will there be opportunity for public comment on the product?	No
Will the Agency provide significant and relevant public comments to the peer reviewers before they conduct their review?	No
Will the review be a panel, conducted in public?	No
Will public comments be allowed at the panel review?	No