affecting a sector of the economy, productivity, competition, jobs, the environment, public health or safety, or State, local, or tribal governments or communities (also known as "economically significant"); (2) creating serious inconsistency or otherwise interfering with an action taken or planned by another agency; (3) materially altering the budgetary impacts of entitlements, grants, user fees, or loan programs; or (4) raising novel legal or policy issues arising out of legal mandates, the President's priorities, or the principles set forth in this order. Pursuant to the terms of this order, EPA has determined that this stay would not be "significant".

B. Regulatory Flexibility Act

Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*, EPA is certifying that a stay of these criteria would not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small businesses.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

There are no information collection requirements associated with this administrative stay covered under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 131

Environmental protection, Water pollution control, Water quality standards, Toxic pollutants.

Dated: April 14, 1995.

Carol M. Browner,

Administrator.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, part 131 of title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended as follows:

PART 131—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 131 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.

2. Part 131 is amended by adding at the end of § 131.36(b)(1) the following "Note to paragraph (b)(1)":

§131.36 Toxics criteria for those States not complying with Clean Water Act Section 303(c)(2)(B).

* *

(b)(1) * * *

Note to paragraph (b)(1): On April 14, 1995, the Environmental Protection Agency issued a stay of certain criteria in paragraph (b)(1) of this section as follows: the criteria in columns B and C for arsenic, cadmium, chromium (VI), copper, lead, nickel, silver, and zinc; the criteria in B1 and C1 for mercury; the criteria in column B for chromium (III); and the criteria in column C for selenium. The stay remains in effect until further notice.

[FR Doc. 95–10147 Filed 5–3–95; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 131

[WH-FRL-5196-1]

Water Quality Standards; Establishment of Numeric Criteria for Priority Toxic Pollutants; States' Compliance—Revision of Metals Criteria

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Interim final rule, notice of data availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: EPA is promulgating new aquatic life metals criteria for nine States, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia, that are subject to EPA's 1992 National Toxics Rule ("NTR"). These new metals criteria reflect EPA's current policy for setting water quality criteria for metals. This interim final rule establishes metals criteria that are protective of aquatic life and approximate, better than the 1992 criteria, the biologically available fraction of water borne metals to aquatic organisms. Use of the new metals criteria will allow permitting authorities in the nine States, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia, to establish effluent limitations based on the new metals criteria rather than the 1992 criteria which EPA now considers to be more stringent than may be necessary to protect designated uses for aquatic life. The interim final rule will be in effect while EPA considers public comments and develops a final rule. This rule terminates the Administrative Stay published elsewhere in this issue of the Federal Register.

DATES: This interim final rule is effective April 15, 1995. Comments on the interim final rule and other data noticed in this preamble will be accepted until July 3, 1995. ADDRESSES: An original and 3 copies of all comments and references on the interim final rule and data should be addressed to: Revision of the National Toxics Rule-Dissolved Metals Criteria, Comment Clerk; Water Docket (MC-4101), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street SW., Washington, DC 20460. The administrative record for this rulemaking is available for review and copying at the Environmental

Protection Agency, Office of Water Docket, 401 M Street SW, Washington DC, 20460, Room L102, on weekdays during EPA's normal business hours of 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. For access to the Docket materials, call (202) 260–3027 between 9:00a.m.–3:30p.m., for an appointment. A reasonable fee will be charged for photocopies.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Timothy J. Kasten, telephone 202–260– 5994.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. General Background

1. Regulatory Background

In the NTR, EPA promulgated numeric water quality criteria for 12 States, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia, that failed to comply fully with Section 303(c)(2)(B) of the Clean Water Act. (57 FR 60848, December 22, 1992 codified in the Code of Federal Regulations at 40 CFR 131.36).¹ Those criteria became the legally enforceable water quality standards in the named States, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia, for all purposes and programs under the Clean Water Act on February 5, 1993. Included among the water quality criteria promulgated in the NTR were numeric criteria for the protection of aquatic life for 11 metals: arsenic, cadmium, chromium (III), chromium (VI), copper, lead, mercury, nickel, selenium, silver, and zinc.

The Agency received extensive public comment during the development of the NTR regarding the most appropriate approach for expressing the metals criteria. The principal issue was the correlation between metals that are measured and metals that are bioavailable and toxic to aquatic life.

2. Policy on Aquatic Life Metals Criteria

At the time of the NTR promulgation, Agency policy was to express metals criteria, as recommended in its Section 304(a) criteria documents, as total recoverable metal measurements. Agency guidance prior to the NTR promulgation indicated that metals criteria may be expressed either as total recoverable metal or dissolved metal.²

² Interim Guidance on Interpretation and Implementation of Aquatic Life Criteria for Metals, Continued

¹ In the NTR, EPA determined compliance with Section 303(c)(2)(B) based on the status of State compliance as of 1991, the date of the proposed rulemaking, and then took into account EPA approval actions between the proposed and final rulemaking for those States included in the proposed rule. EPA acknowledges that, due to subsequent State actions to delete or otherwise modify toxics criteria (*e.g.*, see Table 1, 57 FR 60856, December 22, 1992), all States and Territories currently may not be in full compliance with Section 303(c)(2)(B).