

This "Interdepartmental Agreement Concerning Health Aspects of Water Pollution Control" directs that the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare be consulted on the following health-related matters: criteria for water quality standards setting based on health aspects of intended use for drinking water supplies, shellfish and other marine food production, bathing and other water contact activities; specific water related health problems, such as comprehensive water pollution control programs and water pollution research projects; and construction grant applications and requirements for the control of pollution from Federal installations where projects may adversely affect shellfish-growing areas.

In conformance with the Agreement, the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration is using Public Health Service Drinking Water Standards as the general basic requirements for protecting public water supply use of interstate waters, and is using Public Health Service Shellfish Sanitation Standards as the basic bacteriological requirements for protecting shellfish waters. The Federal Water Pollution Control Administration solicited the participation in the water quality standards-setting process of Public Health Service officials, who have served as representatives to the National Technical Advisory Committee on Water Quality Criteria. In addition, at the regional level Federal Water Pollution Control Administration Regional Directors have worked with the staff of the Public Health Service in the review of individual State water quality standards.

In carrying on a national program for the prevention, control, and abatement of water pollution, the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration gives major attention to the protection of human health. Our objective is the preservation and restoration of water quality for every legitimate use, including public water supply, recreation, and other uses which affect the health of man. The establishment of water quality standards, the enforcement function, and other major program activity is directed in large part to the protection of public health and welfare.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE,
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE,
March 14, 1968.

Memorandum to: Dr. Leon Weinberger, Assistant Commissioner for Research and Development, FWPCA. Attention: Mrs. Seligson.

From: Deputy Director, Bureau of Disease Prevention and Environmental Control, PHS.

Subject: Material for Daddario Committee on "Effects of Water Pollution on Human Health."

In accordance with your request, there is forwarded herewith a draft of material for insertion in the recent Daddario Committee hearings on the above subject. Please excuse the delay in getting this material to you.

V. G. MACKENZIE,
Assistant Surgeon General.

EFFECTS OF WATER POLLUTION ON HUMAN HEALTH

Water pollution directly relates to man's health through:

1. Contamination of his drinking water,
2. Destruction of water contact recreational and work areas,
3. Contamination of his food sources, particularly marine food, and
4. By creating environmental areas which produce disease carrying insect vectors.

While the broad parameters of these effects are generally recognized, the increasing discharge of wastes to water resources is exposing man to an increasing degree to low levels of potential hazardous chemical intoxicants which may have a direct effect on his health. This problem is well illustrated by a review of the Public Health Service Drinking Water Standards which contain limits for microbiological, chemical, and radioactive contaminants. While efforts have been made to develop these standards in the light of man's total exposure through the mediums of air, water, and food to particular chemicals, lack of knowledge as to the long term chronic effects of these substances is notable by its absence. Without