

that sufficiently address this Determination before EPA proposes or promulgates federal WQS, EPA would no longer be obligated to propose or promulgate those federal WQS.

In this particular case, given the readily available information that Florida generated in its 2016 rulemaking effort⁴⁶ and that EPA published in its most recent national recommendations,⁴⁷ EPA believes that 12 months is a reasonable timeframe for the agency to develop proposed federal regulations setting forth protective HHC for Florida. EPA will seek feedback from Florida, as well as interested stakeholders, on EPA's proposed rulemaking in accordance with 40 CFR 131.22(c) and 131.20(b). After a federal rule is proposed, EPA plans to give full consideration to all comments received before proceeding to the final rule stage.

EPA is committed to working closely and collaboratively with Florida to ensure that the HHC are protective of applicable designated uses, based on sound scientific rationale and responsive to the needs of Florida's residents.

Sincerely,



Radhika Fox
Assistant Administrator

CC:

Daniel Blackman, Regional Administrator, EPA Region 4
Denisse Diaz, Director, Water Division, EPA Region 4

Adam Blalock, Deputy Secretary, Ecosystem Restoration, FDEP
Kim Shugar, Director, Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration, FDEP

⁴⁶ Florida Department of Environmental Protection. (2016). *Technical Support Document: Derivation of Human Health-Based Criteria and Risk Impact Statement*. https://floridadep.gov/sites/default/files/HH_TSD.pdf

⁴⁷ U.S. EPA. (June 29, 2015). *Final Updated Ambient Water Quality Criteria for the Protection of Human Health*, 80 FR 36986. See also U.S. EPA. (2015). *Final 2015 Updated National Recommended Human Health Criteria*. <https://www.epa.gov/wqc/national-recommended-water-quality-criteria-human-health-criteria-table>