

Message

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Sent: 2/9/2021 7:42:17 PM
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Assessments develop a single toxicity value (e.g., for noncancer, a reference dose/concentration) for a given duration of exposure. However, at political direction, the PFBS assessment was changed to provide RfD *ranges* of values rather than the previously peer-reviewed and vetted reference value. As a result, the current assessment offers a “lower” and “higher” toxicity value as options. This is a significant change in the way toxicity values are developed and reported in the Agency. A decision to present toxicity values this way is not scientifically sound and not implementable by programs (e.g. under CERCLA/RCRA).

Administrator Wheeler determined that uncertainty factors were policy, not scientific judgments, used here to justify two toxicity values. This is contrary to long-standing risk assessment practices based on National Academy of Sciences (NAS) guidance. This constitutes a violation of the agency’s Scientific Integrity Policy and the documents have been removed from the EPA website while the agency completes its review.