

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
AGENCY****40 CFR Part 141****[WH-FRL-5694-7]****RIN 2040-AC88****National Primary Drinking Water  
Regulations: Analytical Methods for  
Radionuclides****AGENCY:** Environmental Protection  
Agency.**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** Today, EPA is proposing to approve twelve analytical test procedures for monitoring compliance with radionuclide standards under the Safe Drinking Water Act. During the public comment period on an earlier rulemaking proposal (56 FR 33050, July 18, 1991), EPA received comments requesting approval of additional analytical test procedures for radionuclides. In the final rules section of this Federal Register, the Agency is promulgating these twelve analytical test procedures as a "direct" final rule because the Agency does not expect adverse comments and wants to provide for use of these additional test procedures as soon as possible. This proposal invites comment on the substance of the direct final rule (addressing twelve unproposed test

methods) in the "final rules" section of today's Federal Register.

**DATES:** Comments on the twelve methods in this proposed rule must be received in writing by April 4, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments on this proposed rule may be submitted to Chemistry Methods Docket Clerk, Water Docket, MC 4101, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460. Comments will be considered to be timely if they are postmarked by April 4, 1997. Commenters who would like acknowledgement of receipt of their comments should include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. No facsimiles (faxes) will be accepted.

A copy of the supporting information for this rule is available for review at EPA's Water Docket, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460. For access to the docket materials, call (202) 260-3027 between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. (Eastern time) for an appointment.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Richard Reding, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 26 West Martin Luther King Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45268, 513-569-7961; Dr. Jitendra Saxena, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (4603), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460, 202-260-9579; or one of the EPA

Regional Office contacts listed below. General information may also be obtained from the EPA Drinking Water Hotline. Callers within the United States may reach the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791. The Safe Drinking Water Hotline is open Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

For technical information regarding the methods contact Stephen Pia, National Exposure Research Laboratory, Office of Research and Development, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, P.O. Box 93478, Las Vegas, NV 89193-3478, 702-798-2102.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** See the information provided in the direct final action which is located in the rules section of this Federal Register.

**List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 141**

Environmental protection, Analytical methods, Incorporation by reference, Intergovernmental relations, Monitoring, Radionuclides, Water supply, National primary drinking water regulations.

Dated: February 10, 1997.

Carol M. Browner,

*Administrator.*

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