

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY****40 CFR Part 50**

[AD-FRL 2442-1]

**Review of the National Ambient Air
Quality Standards for Lead; Proposed
Rulemaking****AGENCY:** Environmental Protection
Agency.**ACTION:** Advance notice of proposed
rulemaking.**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection
Agency is initiating a review of the
primary and secondary national
ambient air quality standards (NAAQS)
for lead. This action is required by
provisions of the Clean Air Act (CAA)
as amended.**ADDRESS:** Docket No. A-83-22, which
will contain material relevant to this
standard review, is located in the
Central Docket Section of the U.S.
Environmental Protection Agency, West
Tower Lobby, Gallery I, 401 M Street,
SW., Washington, D.C. 20460. The
docket may be inspected between 8:00
a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on weekdays, and a
reasonable fee may be charged for
copying.**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**Mr. Bruce Jordan, Strategies and Air
Standards Division (MD-12), Office of
Air Quality Planning and Standards,
Environmental Protection Agency,
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina
27711; telephone (919) 541-5655, FTS
629-5655.**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On
October 5, 1978 (43 FR 46246), the
Environmental Protection Agency
promulgated national ambient air
quality standards for lead under section
109 of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7409.The primary (health-based) and
secondary (welfare-based) standards
were set at a level of 1.5 micrograms
lead per cubic meter of air ($\mu\text{g Pb}/\text{m}^3$),
averaged over a calendar quarter.As indicated in previous Federal
Register notice (47 FR 15643, 17665,
31751, 47668, 56551), EPA is now
reviewing, updating, and revising the air
quality criteria document for lead,
pursuant to sections 103(c) and 109(d) of
the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7403(c) and
7409(d). Release of the first draft of the
revised criteria document was
announced September 26, 1983 in the
Federal Register (48 FR 43724). The draft
has undergone review by interested
members of the public and the Clean Air
Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC)
of EPA's Science Advisory Board. Comments
submitted on the draft
document and heard at the April 26-27
1984 CASAC meeting (49 FR 13916) are
now being analyzed by EPA's
Environmental Assessment and Criteria
Office (ECAO) for necessary revisions
to the draft. EPA will provide notice
through the Federal Register of the
status and availability of other
documents related to the review of the
lead standards. The public will be
provided opportunities to comment
through public meetings and/or written
comments.Major issues under consideration in
this standard review include:

1. Critical effect level—Recent studies
suggest that relatively low-level
exposure to lead may adversely affect
cognitive development and
neurobehavioral function in young
children. The demonstration of such
effects may require reevaluation of the
rationale upon which the current
primary standard is based to insure that
the standard provides an adequate
margin of safety to protect public health.

2. Multi-media considerations—The
natural presence of lead in the
environment combined with human
activities in the refining and use of the
metal have resulted in widespread
exposure to lead from various media. As
with the current primary standard, the
relative contribution of atmospheric
lead, both direct and indirect, to body
burden will continue to be an important
issue in the review of the NAAQS.

3. Air quality data—Lead air quality
monitoring performed since the
promulgation of the current standards
reflects a significant downward trend in
atmospheric lead that correlates closely
with the reduction of lead in gasoline.
The data have recently been criticized,
however, as not being representative of
actual human exposure. At issue will be
the appropriate role for such data in the
evaluation of exposure.

4. Risk assessment—The lead
standards review may include the first
formal application of the NAAQS risk
assessment program, which has been
under development for several years. A
CASAC Subcommittee on Risk
Assessment has been formed to advise
EPA on the planning and conduct of the
lead risk assessment. The first meeting
of the Subcommittee was held
September 14-15, 1983. The importance
of the lead risk assessment as a factor in
the review of the primary standard will
depend in part on the results of the
review by the CASAC and its
subcommittee.

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 50Carbon monoxide, Lead, Nitrogen
dioxide, Ozone, Particulates matter,
sulfur oxide.

Dated: May 18, 1984.

William D. Ruckelshaus,
Administrator.[FR Doc. 84-13113 Filed 5-23-84; 8:45 am]
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