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USEPA OFFICE OF WATER REGULATORY TOOLS TO ADDRESS EMERGING CONTAMINANTS

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ABSTRACT: The EPA Office of Water's (OW) role is to protect our Nation's watersheds and drinking water supplies against contaminants in our waterways. We work within a national framework of protecting human health and the environment using technology and implementing regulations on a watershed basis -- all driven by a strong emphasis on sound science, transparency, public information, and partnerships. Tools within this framework include regulatory authorities established by Congress under the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act such as the Ambient Water Quality Criteria development process, the Contaminant Candidate List selection process, and the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule. Other tools consist of interactions with the States and EPA Regions and through programs such as the Science to Achieve Results (STAR) grants program. OW uses these tools to understand, manage and reduce hazards posed by emerging contaminants in our waters. Our goal and commitment is to bring good science, transparency, and strong partnerships together to find needed answers and solutions to ensure we continue to meet EPA's central goal of protecting water quality, human and aquatic health, and assuring safe drinking water.

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