

Subject Health risk limits; groundwater

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Overview

The commissioner of health adopts rules establishing health risk limits for contaminants in groundwater, if monitoring results show the groundwater is being degraded. A health risk limit is defined as the concentration of one or more contaminants in groundwater that can be consumed with little or no risk to health. Health risk limits are used by other state agencies for water monitoring and risk management.

This bill modifies the quantitative estimates from which health risk limits for chemicals in groundwater that are known or probable carcinogens must be derived, to allow the commissioner to use quantitative estimates that are not published by the EPA but that have undergone scientific review.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Procedure.
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	Amends § 103H.201, subd. 1. In a subdivision authorizing the commissioner of health to adopt health risk limits for substances degrading groundwater, provides that a quantitative estimate of a chemical's carcinogenic potency, used by the commissioner to establish health risk limits for chemicals in groundwater that are known or probable carcinogens, must be either (1) published by the EPA or (2) determined by the commissioner to have undergone scientific review. (Under current law the quantitative estimate must be both published by the EPA and determined by the commissioner to have undergone scientific review.)
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