



## Protect public health, don't weaken water standards

DEP's rule proposes 24 updates to the state's human health criteria within our water quality standards. The human health criteria serve to help make sure our waters are safe to use for fishing and as drinking water supplies. [Hundreds of comments](#) were submitted by West Virginia citizens on this rule.

**The proposed rule increases risk to human health.** The updates would result in 13 values within our water quality standards to become less stringent. West Virginia has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest cancer death rate in the nation according to CDC's most recent data. Increasing exposure to cancer-causing chemicals increases cancer risk.

**Industrial facilities are already in compliance with current standards.** Weakening them only stands to increase public health risks to West Virginians and shift more burden on our already over-burdened public water systems to be able to provide safe drinking water to our citizens.

**We ask you to reject policy that makes the criteria for carcinogens and toxins less stringent than WV's current standards.**

### *Examples of toxins proposed to become less stringent*

Pollutant	Uses	Health Impacts	# of WV Dischargers
1,1 Dichloroethylene	Food packaging, flame-retardant coatings, adhesive applications	Affects organ development, central nervous system, and respiratory system	5
1,2 Dichloroethane	Plastic manufacturing	Probable carcinogen	6
Acrylonitrile	Plastic manufacturing	Carcinogen, organ development and reproduction	6
Chloroform	Chemical manufacturing, disinfection byproduct	Organ damage, cancer	25
Chlorophenol	Pesticides, herbicides, and disinfectants	Increased risk of cancer, liver damage	5
Tetrachloroethylene	Dry-cleaning operations	Affects central nervous system, liver, kidneys, immune system, and reproductive system	5