

**Drinking Water Quality Institute
Testing Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
At DHSS Lab
Scotch Road, Ewing Township
April 19, 2005**

Voting Members Present: Steve Jenniss, Jean Matteo, Barker Hamill

Also Attending: Linda Bonnette (BSDW), Lee Lippincott (DSRT), Joe Wallin (DHSS), Diane Pupa (BSDW), Michele Mooney (OQA), Karen Fell (BSDW), Eileen Murphy (DSRT)

1. S. Jenniss opened the meeting at 9:45 a.m.
2. K. Fell reported she had spoken to Dave Munch of EPA and he explained that Method 314.1 has not been published yet. It is expected to undergo agency review shortly, and he expects it will be published in the next 1-2 months. He said Method 314.1 will be able to handle samples with higher specific conductivity than Method 314.0.
3. The subcommittee called Cody Cruse, Linda Henry, and Phil Schmidt of American Water in Belleville, Illinois (618-239-0518). American Water uses Method 314.0 in their lab, and was approved by EPA to do UCMR for the 2001-2003 sampling. The two main issues to discuss with them were if there were any unique problems with the method, and at what levels TDS interferes with the result.

C. Cruse explained that the method is fairly basic and they did not have any problems during UCMR testing. He stated that as long as TDS was below about 1400 ppm, he wouldn't expect to see a problem to achieve a reporting level of 4 ppb. He stated that they found it was critical to use eluent generation to get an MRL to 4 ppb. He also stated that there is another compound that peaks at a similar time to perchlorate, so it is possible to get a false positive for perchlorate. He stated the cost of the ion chromatograph with eluent generator is approximately \$50,000, and that he estimates that the instrumentation needed for upcoming Method 314.1 would be around \$80,000.

4. OQA Summary of Certified Laboratories - Michele Mooney of OQA handed out a list of New Jersey certified perchlorate labs that had responded back to her recent email. The list shows reported MDL level, reporting limit, maximum conductivity threshold (MCT), concentration of lowest standard, how RL was determined, and laboratory comments. Several labs show a reporting limit of 1 ppb.

Discussion ensued about what methods to consider and what the monitoring schedule might be for perchlorate. One possibility is to evaluate perchlorate in a manner similar to nitrate. It was agreed that BDSW staff would give a short presentation at the next Health Effects Subcommittee and at the next full Institute meeting on the nitrate monitoring framework in the Safe Drinking Water Regulations. It was noted that considering the monitoring schedule

is "new territory" for the DWQI, because past analytes have always fit into an existing framework.

5. Health Effects Update - Barker reported that the Health Effects Subcommittee is leaning towards 5 ppb, but a final decision has not been made yet.
6. K. Fell handed out a bar chart showing all TDS values received from public water systems and entered into SDWIS from 1999 to the present. Most results were less than 500 ppm, with a very small number being greater than 500 ppm. It was agreed BSDW would generate a list of those systems that had the values greater than 900 ppm TDS.
7. It was agreed L. Lippincott would investigate what Massachusetts and other states require to achieve a 1 ppb MRL, and would also determine if any adaptations of Method 314.0 would need separate approval from OQA.
8. It was agreed an oral presentation would be made to the full DWQI on May 13th, with the expectation that completed written reports would be generated by the following full DWQI meeting.
9. The Health Effects Subcommittee is looking at values likely to be in the 4-5 ppb range. It would be advantageous to have a method(s) that could evaluate perchlorate in the 1 ppb range so that leeway could be built in to have a trigger for increased or decreased monitoring. Also, at the May 4, 2005, Health Effects Subcommittee meeting, the Subcommittee reviewed comments submitted by one of the Health Effects Subcommittee members to consider 1 ppb as the health effects number. This is an additional reason for the Testing Subcommittee to explore methods that can measure to the 1 ppb range.
10. The next meeting was set for May 9th at 9:30 a.m.

Minutes prepared by

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MINUTES REVISED ON MAY 9, 2005, AS PER COMMENTS AT MAY 9, 2005, TESTING
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING