

P. The Pipeline

Drinking Water Laboratory
Policy & Procedures Update

A publication of the Ohio EPA/DES Spring 1999

Reorganization at Ohio EPA

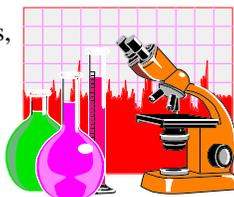
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We are happy to announce that James Evans of the Division of Drinking and Ground Waters is being reassigned to the Laboratory Certification Section of the Ohio EPA as of June 7, 1999. As a result of the required expansion of the certification program, Jim will assist the lab cert section on a full-time basis. Jim will be responsible for laboratory lab plan approval, microbiological and chemical applications, SOP/QA plan review, PT sample coordination, new method review and approval, performance based method program development and laboratory technical assistance. Jim's new mailing address is:

James W. Evans
Ohio EPA/DES
Laboratory Certification Section
1571 Perry Street
Columbus, Ohio 43210
Phone (614) 644-4222
Fax Number: (614) 644-4272

Please send all applications, lab plans and other correspondence to Jim at the above address after June 4, 1999.



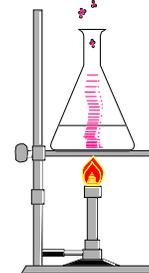
New Application Process

As of April 1, 1999 new rules went into effect regarding laboratory applications. The application must be submitted no sooner than one hundred twenty days and no later than thirty days prior to the expiration date of the currently valid laboratory certificate of approval. If a completed application is not submitted by thirty days prior to the expiration date, the laboratory is not eligible for any extension beyond the expiration date of the certification. In addition a prescheduled date for an on-site survey is subject to cancellation.

If the prescheduled date for an on-site survey is canceled, a subsequent survey shall not be **scheduled** until at least fourteen days after the expiration date occurs. After the expiration date occurs, the laboratory will no longer be certified.

All applications, including microbiological and chemical applications, after June 5, 1999 must be mailed to:

**James W. Evans
Ohio EPA/DES
Laboratory Certification Section
1571 Perry Street
Columbus, Ohio 43210**



Fluoride Split Sample Ends

As of July 1, 1999 the fluoride split sample program will be discontinued. As of July 1, 1999 labs will not be required to send a fluoride split sample to the Ohio Department of Health Laboratory or any other certified laboratory.

In lieu of the fluoride split sample program, laboratories will be required to successfully analyze one QC check in a range of 0.5 to 1.5 mg/L each month. These QC check samples may be obtained at this time from any of the 9 PT suppliers that are listed by the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference as having applied for NIST certification and possessing the capability of providing fluoride QC check samples. If the sample result you obtain differs from the PT supplier's actual value by $\pm 15\%$, contact this office for assistance. A listing of the 9 PT suppliers has been sent to all labs certified for fluoride testing. After Ohio establishes its PT program and approves PT suppliers, you will be required to obtain the fluoride QC check from an Ohio approved PT supplier. The cost of these QC check samples will be borne by your laboratory.



PT Program Update

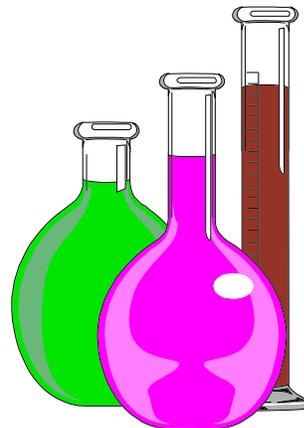
The Ohio EPA is currently working on approving PT suppliers for use in Ohio. After PT suppliers have been approved, laboratories will be notified when the PT program will commence. Currently, there is no firm date for the start-up of the program. Laboratories are encouraged to obtain QC check samples provided by one of the twelve PT suppliers that have applied for NIST approval as an interim solution. The NIST applicants can be found at the following web address:

<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/nelac/provide/pttable1.pdf>



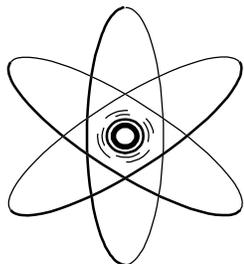
Turbidimeter Maintenance

We have been informed by Hach that the 2100N and 2100 A/N turbidimeters should have an “air” display reading of less than or equal to 0.035 NTU. This means that the reading of the unit with no cell or sample in it must be at least as low as 0.035 NTU. This reading should NOT be subtracted from the reading with the cell in place. The air reading has little value since a turbidimeter needs a cell with sample in it to complete the optical circuit. Readings in air (without a cell) are normally 0.035 or less. If the air reading of your instrument is greater than 0.035, Hach says that they should be contacted, since the optics may need cleaning.



Titration Hints

Many laboratories seem to have difficulties attaining the correct endpoint when performing alkalinity tests. One way to make it easier is for each analyst to occasionally use a pH meter to determine the correct endpoint. To do this, perform the titration while checking the pH of the sample. For alkalinity, the pH at the endpoint must be 4.3-4.7. When the titration is done, note the color of the sample and use this color as a target for future titrations. As noted in the Fall 1998 Pipeline, be sure to dechlorinate samples for alkalinity with sodium thiosulfate analysis when chlorine levels are greater than or equal to 1.0 mg/L.



Fluoride Procedural Option

Once each week laboratories certified for fluoride are required to perform a two point slope using 1.0 and 10.0 mg/L standards, and then check a 0.5 mg/L standard. An acceptable alternative, which may become a future requirement is to perform a two point slope using 0.5 and 5.0 mg/L standards and then checking with a 1.0 mg/L standard. This procedure will allow the actual calibration and check standard to be in the range of what is actually seen in everyday use.



Bob Taft, Governor of Ohio
Christopher Jones, Director of Ohio EPA



The Pipeline Newsletter is published as information becomes available. It is produced by The Ohio EPA, Division of Environmental Services, Laboratory Certification and Division of Drinking & Ground Waters, Enforcement & Water Quality Section. It is distributed to all certified drinking water laboratories.