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TITLE: Filtration of Ground Water Samples

DATE

EFFECTIVE: October 16, 1997 (will be replaced with VAP Ground Water FAQ in 1999)

KEYWORDS: filtration, acidify, 45u filter, acid digestion, total metals, dissolved metals, suspended metals, total recoverable metals, chain of custody, ground water sample, turbidity

RULE: Rule citation relating to this issue: Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 3745-300-07

QUESTION: Should ground water samples that are used to support a Voluntary Action Program (VAP) No Further Action Letter (NFA) be filtered before being sent to the Certified Laboratory?

ANSWER: Ground water samples submitted in support of a VAP NFA letter are not to be filtered in the field, or any time prior to submitting the ground water samples to the Certified Lab. A total metal analysis is required. Samples are acidified in the field for preservation. Laboratories do not filter prior to acid digestion. The only exception for accepting field filtration in the VAP is for wells that are completed within glacial till and in which the ground water sample has a turbidity value of greater than 5 NTUs. If the turbidity value of the sample is greater than 5 NTUs, and the Certified Professional desires to filter the samples, then a 45u filter is to be used.

SUMMARY: Field filtration of ground water samples is not acceptable in the VAP, unless a turbidity value of greater than 5 NTUs is measured for each particular sample.

OHIO EPA

CONTACT: For any questions concerning this issue, please contact the VAP central office at (614)644-2924.