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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUN 30 2016

OFFICE OF WATER

Dallas Wait, Chair
Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board
Gradient
20 University Road
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

Dear Dr. Wait:

On behalf of the Forum on Environmental Measurements, I would like to thank the Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board for your letter updating us on the efforts to improve method harmonization across the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In addition, providing specific method comparisons for the FEM's consideration.

The FEM reviewed ELAB's March 17, 2016, letter during our quarterly meeting on May 12, 2016. We appreciate the thoughtful and detailed method comparisons made by ELAB with suggested examples of opportunities for the Agency to do more. We appreciate the recognition by ELAB that the Agency makes an effort to consider more efficient, effective, and harmonized ways to establish new test methods, and update older ones without jeopardizing the intent of the method.

The FEM membership is sharing ELAB's letter with key individuals over the next three months for further discussions across the Agency. There will be a follow-up item on the agenda for our August Quarterly Meeting (i.e., August 3, 2016). We are committed to doing our due diligence and again follow-up with ELAB, once a decision on next steps is made.

We want to again thank you and the other members of ELAB for all the work you do to assist the Agency in improving programs that affect organizations involved in using EPA methods. Please continue to send us your comments and suggestions, since ELAB serves as an important mechanism for the FEM to keep abreast of important issues facing the monitoring community and to receive the community's input on our activities.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 202-564-5700 or shapiro.mike@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael H. Shapiro".

Michael H. Shapiro
Chair, Forum on Environmental Measurements

Cc: Lara Phelps, OSA
FEM Membership (individual names can be provided)

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