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

OFFICE OF WATER

SEP 26 2017

Mr. Henry Leibovitz, Chair
Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board
Rhode Island State Health Laboratories
50 Orms Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02904

Dear Dr. Leibovitz:

On behalf of the Forum on Environmental Measurements (FEM), I would like to thank the Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board (ELAB) for your letter providing detailed minimum criteria for selected ion monitoring (SIM) methods.

The FEM will be presented with ELAB's April 17, 2017, letter during our quarterly meeting on October 24, 2017. We appreciate the thoughtful process undertaken by ELAB to formulate the proposed list of minimum SIM criteria and want to be as thoughtful in pulling together the appropriate expertise and diversity of interest across various US Environmental Protection Agency programs as well.

The FEM membership will share ELAB's letter with key individuals and anticipates there being a follow-up item on the agenda for our January 2018 Quarterly Meeting. 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 black ink, which appears to read "Michael Shapiro".

Michael H. Shapiro
Chair, FEM

Cc: Lara Phelps, OSA
FEM Membership

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