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

February 7, 2019

Michael F. Delaney, Ph.D.
Chair, Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board

OFFICE OF
WATER

Dear Dr. Delaney:

Thank you for your October 17, 2018 letter to Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta on the subject of "Drinking Water Methods Approvals." Your letter was redirected to our office based on our role in providing oversight to the national drinking water laboratory certification program. The Office of Water (OW) appreciates the Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board's (ELAB's) input.

Consistent with your recommendation, the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (OGWDW), Standard and Risk Management Division, Technical Support Center encourages laboratories and their state certification authorities to adopt the most recently approved methods, which often utilize the latest advanced technologies and improved techniques. Laboratory certification program updates presented at national conferences allow the Agency to clarify these benefits and advocate for the adoption of the newest methods. Our office will further expand awareness of the benefits of utilizing the newest approved methods during the upcoming Drinking Water Laboratory Certification Program Update webinar, planned for spring 2019.

The long-term plan includes OGWDW formulating a proposed drinking water Method Update Rule (MUR) to update the CFR approved method tables. The MUR could include a proposal to rescind approval of older methods when newer, more current and approved methods are available. Formal rulemaking includes an opportunity for all stakeholders to provide comments prior to the Agency's publication of a final rule.

EPA appreciates ELAB's efforts to improve the quality of drinking water monitoring data and identify ways that EPA can better assist states and communities in protecting drinking water. Should you have any questions, please contact Daniel Hautman of our Technical Support Center at 513-569-7274 or hautman.dan@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Burneson".

Eric Burneson, Director
Standards and Risk Management Division
OW/OGWDW

Cc: Jennifer McLain, OW/OGWDW
Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta, ORD
Tom Sinks, ORD/OSA
Thomas O'Farrell, ORD/OSA
Daniel Hautman, OW/OGWDW/SRMD/TSC