

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



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

OFFICE OF THE
SCIENCE ADVISOR

Mr. Michael Flournoy
Chair, Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board
Eurofins Frontier Global Sciences Inc.
11720 North Creek Parkway North, Suite 400
Bothell, WA 98011

Dear Mr. Flournoy:

Thank you for ELAB's letters regarding Drinking Water Method Approvals and Laboratory Involvement in the Quality Assurance Project Plan Development Process sent to Dr. Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta, dated October 17, 2018. EPA appreciates ELAB's input on improving contractor Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs) and its recommendations on achieving consistency in drinking water testing methods.

We provided the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (OGWDW), Office of Water, with ELAB's letter regarding Drinking Water Method Approvals. OGWDW sent a response to this letter via email to you on February 12, 2019 (copy attached). ELAB members that have additional questions or comments on this topic should address them to Dan Hautman, OGWDW, Technical Support Center, hautman.dan@epa.gov.

ELAB's letter regarding Laboratory Involvement in the Quality Assurance Project Plan Development Process has been sent to contract personnel within the Office of Mission Support (OMS) and the Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM) for their consideration. If the Office of the Science Advisor becomes aware of actions taken to improve contractor QAPP development process, we will pass that along to ELAB.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Sinks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tom Sinks, Ph.D.
Director
Office of the Science Advisor

Attachment



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

February 7, 2019

Michael F. Delaney, Ph.D.
Chair, Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board
1022 Hancock St., Unit 109
Quincy, MA 02169

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,


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