November 2003

Environmental Technology Verification Report

SEVERN TRENT SERVICES
ECLOX
RAPID TOXICITY TESTING SYSTEM

Prepared by
Battelle

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EPA U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

ETV ETV ETV

November 2003

Environmental Technology Verification Report

ETV Advanced Monitoring Systems Center

Severn Trent Services
Eclox
Rapid Toxicity Testing System

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Notice

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Foreword

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is charged by Congress with protecting the nation's air, water, and land resources. Under a mandate of national environmental laws, the Agency strives to formulate and implement actions leading to a compatible balance between human activities and the ability of natural systems to support and nurture life. To meet this mandate, the EPA's Office of Research and Development provides data and science support that can be used to solve environmental problems and to build the scientific knowledge base needed to manage our ecological resources wisely, to understand how pollutants affect our health, and to prevent or reduce environmental risks.

The Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) Program has been established by the EPA to verify the performance characteristics of innovative environmental technology across all media and to report this objective information to permitters, buyers, and users of the technology, thus substantially accelerating the entrance of new environmental technologies into the marketplace. Verification organizations oversee and report verification activities based on testing and quality assurance protocols developed with input from major stakeholders and customer groups associated with the technology area. ETV consists of seven environmental technology centers. Information about each of these centers can be found on the Internet at http://www.epa.gov/etv/.

Effective verifications of monitoring technologies are needed to assess environmental quality and to supply cost and performance data to select the most appropriate technology for that assessment. Under a cooperative agreement, Battelle has received EPA funding to plan, coordinate, and conduct such verification tests for "Advanced Monitoring Systems for Air, Water, and Soil" and report the results to the community at large. Information concerning this specific environmental technology area can be found on the Internet at http://www.epa.gov/etv/centers/center1.html.

Acknowledgments

The authors wish to acknowledge the support of all those who helped plan and conduct the verification test, analyze the data, and prepare this report. Many thanks go to Battelle's Medical Research and Evaluation Facility for providing the facilities for and personnel capable of working with chemical warfare agents and biotoxins. We would also like to thank Karen Bradham, U.S. EPA National Exposure Research Laboratory; Steve Allgeier, U.S. EPA Office of Water; Ricardo DeLeon, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California; Yves Mikol, New York City Department of Environmental Protection; and Stanley States, Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority, for their careful review of the test/QA plan and this verification report.

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List of Abbreviations

AMS	Advanced Monitoring Systems
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Materials
ATEL	Aqua Tech Environmental Laboratories
DI	deionized water
DDW	dechlorinated drinking water from Columbus, Ohio
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ETV	Environmental Technology Verification
HDPE	high-density polyethylene
HRP	horseradish peroxidase
ID	identification
LD	lethal dose
µL	microliter
mL	milliliter
NSDWR	National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations
%D	percent difference
PE	performance evaluation
QA	quality assurance
QC	quality control
QMP	quality management plan
SOP	standard operating procedure
TSA	technical systems audit

Chapter 1
Background

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) supports the Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) Program to facilitate the deployment of innovative environmental technologies through performance verification and dissemination of information. The goal of the ETV Program is to further environmental protection by accelerating the acceptance and use of improved and cost-effective technologies. ETV seeks to achieve this goal by providing high-quality, peer-reviewed data on technology performance to those involved in the design, distribution, financing, permitting, purchase, and use of environmental technologies.

ETV works in partnership with recognized testing organizations; with stakeholder groups consisting of buyers, vendor organizations, and permitters; and with the full participation of individual technology developers. The program evaluates the performance of innovative technologies by developing test plans that are responsive to the needs of stakeholders, conducting field or laboratory tests (as appropriate), collecting and analyzing data, and preparing peer-reviewed reports. All evaluations are conducted in accordance with rigorous quality assurance (QA) protocols to ensure that data of known and adequate quality are generated and that the results are defensible.

The EPA's National Exposure Research Laboratory and its verification organization partner, Battelle, operate the Advanced Monitoring Systems (AMS) Center under ETV. The AMS Center recently evaluated the performance of the Severn Trent Services Eclox rapid toxicity testing system. Rapid toxicity testing systems were identified as a priority technology verification category through the AMS Center stakeholder process.

Chapter 2
Technology Description

The objective of the ETV AMS Center is to verify the performance characteristics of environmental monitoring technologies for air, water, and soil. This verification report provides results for the verification testing of Eclox. Following is a description of Eclox, based on information provided by the vendor. The information provided below was not subjected to verification in this test.

Eclox (Figure 2-1) is a broadband chemiluminescence test that qualitatively assesses a water sample to determine whether it has been contaminated. The technique, used extensively in the medical field as an immunodiagnostic tool, is based upon the reaction of luminol and an oxidant in the presence of a catalyst enzyme—horseradish peroxidase (HRP). This reaction produces a flash of light (chemiluminescence) that is measured by a luminometer. An enhancer is added prior to the HRP so that the light output produced is of a steady measurable level. Free radical scavengers or antioxidants such as those contained in feces or urine interfere with the reaction, thus reducing the light emission. Substances such as phenols, amines, heavy metals, or compounds that interact with the enzyme also reduce the light output.

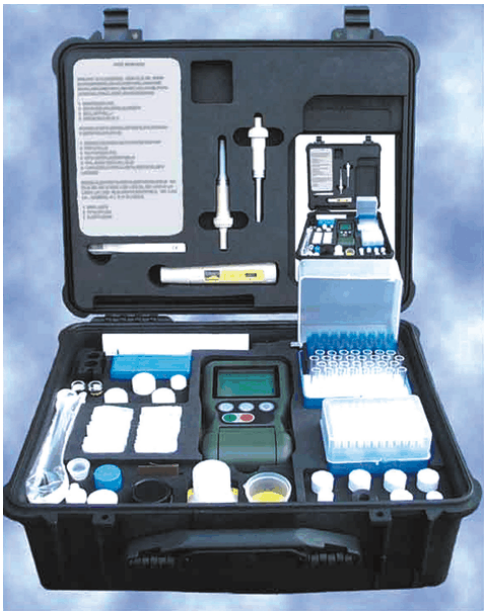

Figure 2-1. Eclox Rapid Toxicity Testing System

To analyze a water sample, 100 microliters (µL) of three reagents are added to 1 milliliter (mL) of the sample, and the sample cuvette is placed in the luminometer for four minutes. Results are compared with a contaminant-free reference, i.e., deionized water, which gives a high light output. Samples containing pollution give lower light levels. Comparing the light output from sample water to that obtained from the reference indicates the contamination levels in the sample water. This test gives a measure of the relative toxicity of a water sample with respect to a control sample. It is up to the user to define the response protocols to activate, based on the level of inhibition exhibited by a water sample.

The Eclox includes a luminometer, a 100-µL and a 1,000-µL pipette and pipette tips, cuvettes, reagent, a pre-conditioner, a cuvette holder, and a CD-ROM with software to download results.

The luminometer stores a total of 60 measurements, and the data can be downloaded to a personal computer using the supplied software. The stored values are downloaded to a Microsoft Access database file and can be exported to a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet.

The complete Eclox weighs approximately 20 pounds. Overall dimensions for the kit are 20-½ inches x 17-½ inches x 8 inches. The luminometer contained in the system weighs a few pounds and is approximately 9 inches x 5 inches x 3 inches. The cost of the full Eclox kit is $7,900.

Chapter 3
Test Design and Procedures

3.1 Introduction

The objective of this verification test of rapid toxicity technologies was to evaluate their ability to detect certain toxins and to determine their susceptibility to interfering chemicals in a controlled experimental matrix. Rapid toxicity technologies do not identify or determine the concentration of specific contaminants, but serve as a screening tool to quickly determine whether water is potentially toxic. Rapid toxicity technologies use bacteria (e.g., *Vibrio fischeri*), enzymes (e.g., luciferase), or small crustaceans (e.g., *Daphnia magna*) that either directly, or in combination with reagents, produce a background level of light or use dissolved oxygen at a steady rate in the absence of toxic contaminants. Toxic contaminants in water are indicated by a change in the color or intensity of light produced or by a decrease in the dissolved oxygen uptake rate in the presence of the contaminants.

As part of this verification test, Eclox was subjected to various concentrations of contaminants such as industrial chemicals, pesticides, rodenticides, pharmaceuticals, nerve agents, and biological toxins. Each contaminant was added to separate drinking water samples and analyzed. In addition to determining whether Eclox can detect the toxicity caused by each contaminant, its response to interfering compounds in clean drinking water, such as water treatment chemicals and by-products, was evaluated. Table 3-1 shows the contaminants and potential interferences that were evaluated during this verification test.

This verification test was conducted according to procedures specified in the *Test/QA Plan for Verification of Rapid Toxicity Technologies*.[1] Eclox was verified by analyzing a dechlorinated drinking water (DDW) sample from Columbus, Ohio, fortified with various concentrations of the contaminants and interferences shown in Table 3-1. Hereafter in this report, DDW will refer to dechlorinated drinking water from Columbus, Ohio. Where possible, the concentration of each contaminant or potential interference was confirmed independently by Aqua Tech Environmental Laboratories (ATEL), Marion, Ohio, or by Battelle, depending on the analyte.

Table 3-1. Contaminants and Potential Interferences

Category	Contaminant
Carbamate pesticide	aldicarb
Pharmaceutical	colchicine
Industrial chemical	cyanide
Organophosphate pesticide	dicrotophos
Rodenticide	thallium sulfate
Biological toxins	botulinum toxin, ricin
Nerve agents	soman, VX
Potential interferences	aluminum, copper, iron, manganese, zinc, chloramination by-products, and chlorination by-products

Eclox was evaluated by

- Endpoint and precision—percent inhibition for all concentration levels of contaminants and potential interfering compounds and precision of replicate analyses
- Toxicity threshold for each contaminant
- False negative responses—contaminants that were reported as producing inhibition results similar to the negative control when the contaminant was present at lethal concentrations
- False positive responses—occurrence of inhibition significantly greater than the inhibition reported for unspiked American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Type II deionized (DI) water samples (zero inhibition)
- Field portability
- Ease of use
- Throughput.

3.2 Test Design

Eclox was used to analyze the DDW sample fortified with contaminants at concentrations typically ranging from lethal levels to concentrations several orders of magnitude less than the lethal dose. The lethal dose of each contaminant was determined by calculating the concentration at which 250 mL of water would probably cause the death of a 154-pound person. These calculations were based on toxicological data available for each contaminant. For soman, the stock solution confirmation showed degradation in the water; therefore, the concentrations analyzed

were less than anticipated. Whether the concentration is still a lethal dose, as is the case for all contaminants, depends on the characteristics of each individual person and the amount of contaminant ingested. Inhibition results (endpoints) from four replicates of each contaminant at each concentration level were evaluated to assess the ability of Eclox to detect toxicity at various concentrations of contaminants, as well as to measure the precision of Eclox results.

The response of Eclox to compounds used during the water treatment process (identified as potential interferences in Table 3-1) was evaluated by analyzing separate aliquots of DDW fortified with each potential interference at approximately one-half of the concentration limit recommended by the EPA's National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations (NSDWR)[(2)] guidance. For analysis of by-products of the chlorination process, the unspiked DDW was analyzed because Columbus, Ohio, uses chlorination as its disinfectant procedure. For the analysis of by-products of the chloramination process, a separate drinking water sample from St. Petersburg, Florida, which uses chloramination as its disinfection process, was obtained. The samples were analyzed after residual chlorine was removed using the vendor-provided dechlorinating reagent.

Sample throughput was measured based on the number of samples analyzed per hour. Ease of use and reliability were determined based on documented observations of the operators and the Verification Test Coordinator. In addition to comprehensive testing in Battelle laboratories, Eclox was operated in the basement of a Columbus, Ohio, home to test its ability to be transported and operated in a non-laboratory setting.

3.3 Test Samples

Test samples used in the verification test included drinking water and quality control (QC) samples. Table 3-2 shows the number and type of samples analyzed. QC samples included method blanks and positive and negative control samples. The fortified drinking water samples were prepared from a single drinking water sample collected from the Columbus, Ohio, system. The water was dechlorinated using a vendor-provided dechlorination reagent and then fortified with various concentrations of contaminants and interferences. Using this DDW (Columbus, Ohio, dechlorinated drinking water), individual solutions containing each contaminant and potential interference were prepared and analyzed. The DDW containing the potential interferences was analyzed at a single concentration level, while four dilutions (made using the DDW) were analyzed for each contaminant using Eclox. Mixtures of contaminants and interfering compounds were not analyzed. One concentration level of cyanide was analyzed in the field setting.

3.3.1 Quality Control Samples

QC samples included method blank samples, which consisted of ASTM Type II DI water; positive control samples, which consisted of ASTM Type II DI water or DDW (depending on vendor preference) fortified with a contaminant and concentration selected by the vendor; and negative control samples, which consisted of the unspiked DDW. The method blank samples were used to help ensure that no sources of contamination were introduced in the sample handling and analysis procedures.

Table 3-2. Summary of Quality Control and Contaminant Test Samples

Type of Sample	Sample Characteristics	Concentration Levels (mg/L)	No. of Sample Analyses
Quality control	Method blank	NS[a]	12
	Positive control (Phenol)	115	14
	Negative control (unspiked DDW)	NS	47
DDW fortified with contaminants	Aldicarb	280; 28; 2.8; 0.28	4 per concentration level
	Colchicine	240; 24; 2.4; 0.24	4 per concentration level
	Cyanide	250; 0.25; 0.05; 0.025	4 per concentration level
	Dicrotophos	1,400; 140; 14; 1.4	4 per concentration level
	Thallium sulfate	2,400; 240; 24; 2.4	4 per concentration level
	Botulinum toxin[b]	0.30; 0.030; 0.0030; 0.0030	4 per concentration level
	Ricin[c]	15; 1.5; 0.15; 0.015	4 per concentration level
	Soman	0.068;[d] 0.0068; 0.00068; 0.000068	4 per concentration level
	VX	0.49; 0.049; 0.0049; 0.00049	4 per concentration level
Field location	Cyanide	0.05	4
DDW fortified with potential interferences	Aluminum	0.36	4
	Copper	0.65	4
	Iron	0.069	4
	Manganese	0.26	4
	Zinc	3.5	4
Disinfectant by-products	Chloramination by-products	NS	4
	Chlorination by-products	NS	4

[a] NS = Samples not fortified with any contaminant or potential interference.
[b] Lethal dose solution also contained 3 mg/L phosphate and 1 mg/L sodium chloride.
[c] Lethal dose solution also contained 3 mg/L phosphate, 26 mg/L sodium chloride, and 2 mg/L sodium azide.
[d] Due to the degradation of soman in water, the stock solution confirmation analysis confirmed that the concentration of the lethal dose was 23% of the expected concentration of 0.30 mg/L.

Phenol was suggested by the vendor for use as the positive control sample; and, while performance limits were not placed on the results, nearly complete inhibition for this contaminant indicated to the operator that Eclox was functioning properly. The negative control sample was used to set a background inhibition of the DDW, the matrix in which each test sample was prepared.

3.3.2 Drinking Water Fortified with Contaminants

Approximately 150 liters of Columbus, Ohio, tap water were collected in a high-density polyethylene (HDPE) container. A portion of that sample was dechlorinated with two drops of vendor-provided dechlorinating reagent for every 50 mL of water. All subsequent test samples were prepared from this DDW and stored in glass containers to avoid chlorine leaching from HDPE containers.

A stock solution of each contaminant was prepared in ASTM Type II DI water at concentrations above the lethal dose concentration level. The stock solution was diluted in DDW to obtain one sample containing the lethal dose concentration for each contaminant and three additional samples with concentrations 10, 100, and 1,000 times less than the lethal dose. At concentrations near the lethal dose, Eclox was more sensitive to cyanide than to the other contaminants, so more dilute solutions had to be prepared and analyzed. Table 3-2 lists each concentration level and the number of samples analyzed at each level.

3.3.3 Drinking Water Fortified with Potential Interferences

Individual aliquots of the DDW were fortified with one-half the concentration specified by the EPA's NSDWR for each potential interference. Table 3-2 lists the interferences, along with the concentrations at which they were tested. Four replicates of each of these samples were analyzed. To test the sensitivity of Eclox to by-products of the chlorination process as potential interferences, the unspiked DDW (same as the negative control) was used since the water sample originated from a utility that uses chlorination as its disinfectant procedure. In a similar test involving the by-products of the chloramination process, an additional water sample was obtained from St. Petersburg, Florida, a city that uses chloramination as its disinfectant procedure. The residual chlorine in both of these samples was removed using the vendor-provided dechlorination reagent, and then the samples were analyzed in replicate with no additional fortification of contaminants.

3.4 Test Procedure

3.4.1 Test Sample Preparation and Storage

A drinking water sample was collected as described in Section 3.3.2 and, because free chlorine inhibits the chemiluminescent reaction that generates the light production within the Eclox reagent and can degrade the contaminants during storage, was immediately dechlorinated with the dechlorinating reagent provided by the vendor. All the contaminant samples, potential interference samples, and negative control QC samples were made from this DDW, while the method blank sample was prepared from ASTM Type II DI water. The positive control samples were made using ASTM Type II DI water in Class A volumetric glassware. All QC samples were prepared prior to the start of the testing and stored at room temperature for a maximum of 60 days. The aliquots of DDW containing the contaminants were prepared within seven days of testing and stored in the dark at room temperature without chemical preservation. Aliquots to be analyzed by each technology were placed in uniquely labeled sample containers. The sample

containers were assigned an identification (ID) number. A master log of the samples and sample ID numbers for each technology was kept by Battelle.

3.4.2 Test Sample Analysis Procedure

To analyze DDW samples, 100 µL of three reagents were added to 1 mL of the water sample to be analyzed, and the sample cuvette was placed in the Eclox immediately. The sample was analyzed for four minutes. Software within the Eclox automatically calculated the result (percent inhibition) for each sample. For each contaminant, Eclox analyzed the lethal dose concentration and three additional concentration levels four times. Only one concentration of potential interference was analyzed. To test the field portability of Eclox, a single concentration level of cyanide, prepared in the same way as the other DDW samples, was analyzed in replicate by Eclox in the basement of a Columbus, Ohio, home. Sample analysis procedures were performed in the same way as during testing in the laboratory. Two operators performed all the analyses using Eclox. Both held bachelor's degrees in the sciences and spent approximately four hours with the vendor to become familiar with using Eclox.

3.4.3 Stock Solution Confirmation Analysis

The concentrations of the contaminant and interfering compound stock solutions were verified with standard analytical methods, with the exception of colchicine, ricin, and botulinum toxin—contaminants without standard analytical methods. Aliquots to be analyzed by standard methods were preserved as prescribed by the method. In addition, the same standard methods were used to measure the concentrations of each contaminant/potential interference in the unspiked DDW so that background concentrations of contaminants or potential interferences were accounted for within the displayed concentration of each contaminant/potential interference sample. Table 3-3 lists the standard methods used to measure each analyte; the results from the stock solution confirmation analyses (obtained by reporting the correct lethal dose concentration for the contaminants and the single concentration that was analyzed for the potential interferences); and the background levels of the contaminants and potential interferences measured in the DDW sample, which were all non-detect or negligible.

Standard methods were also used to characterize several water quality parameters such as the concentration of trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, and total organic halides; turbidity; dissolved organic carbon content; pH; alkalinity; specific conductivity; and hardness. Table 3-4 lists these measured water quality parameters for both the water sample collected in Columbus, Ohio, representing a water system using chlorination as the disinfecting process, and the water sample collected in St. Petersburg, Florida, representing a water system using chloramination as the disinfecting process.

Table 3-3. Dose Confirmation Results

	Method	Average Concentration ± Standard Deviation N = 4 (mg/L)	Background in DDW (mg/L)
Contaminant			
Aldicarb	EPA 531.1[3]	280 ± 28	<0.0007
Colchicine	[a]	NA[b]	NA
Cyanide	EPA 335.1[4]	250 ± 15	0.008
Dicrotophos	EPA SW846 (8141A)[5]	1,400 ± 140	<0.002
Thallium sulfate	EPA 200.8[6]	2,400 ± 24	<0.001
Botulinum toxin	[a]	NA	NA
Ricin	[a]	NA	NA
Soman	[c]	0.068[d] ± 0.001	<0.05
VX	[c]	0.49 ± 0.01	<0.05
Potential Interference			
Aluminum	EPA 200.8	0.36 ± 0.01	<0.10
Copper	EPA 200.8	0.65 ± 0.01	0.011
Iron	EPA 200.8	0.069 ± 0.08	<0.04
Manganese	EPA 200.8	0.26 ± 0.01	<0.01
Zinc	EPA 200.8	3.5 ± 0.35	0.3

[a] No standard method available. QA audits and balance calibration assured accurately prepared solutions.
[b] NA = Not applicable.
[c] Purity analyses performed on chemical and biological agent materials using Battelle standard operating procedures.
[d] The result of the dose confirmation analysis for soman was 23% of the expected concentration of 0.30 mg/L.

Table 3-4. Water Quality Parameters

Parameter	Method	Dechlorinated Columbus, Ohio, Tap Water (disinfected by chlorination)	Dechlorinated St. Petersburg, Florida, Tap Water (disinfected by chloramination)
Turbidity	EPA 180.1[7]	0.1 NTU[a]	0.3 NTU
Organic carbon	SM 5310[8]	2.5 mg/L	2.9 mg/L
Specific conductivity	SM 2510[8]	364 μmho	460 μmho
Alkalinity	SM 2320[8]	42 mg/L	97 mg/L
pH	EPA 150.1[9]	7.65	7.95
Hardness	EPA 130.2[9]	112 mg/L	160 mg/L
Total organic halides	SM 5320B[8]	190 μg/L	83 μg/L
Total trihalomethanes	EPA 524.2[10]	52.8 μg/L	2.4 μg/L
Total haloacetic acids	EPA 552.2[11]	75.7 μg/L	13.5 μg/L

[a] NTU = nephelometric turbidity units

Chapter 4
Quality Assurance/Quality Control

QA/QC procedures were performed in accordance with the quality management plan (QMP) for the AMS Center[12] and the test/QA plan for this verification test.[1]

4.1 Quality Control of Stock Solution Confirmation Methods

The stock solutions for aldicarb, cyanide, dicrotophos, and thallium sulfate were analyzed using a standard reference method at ATEL. As part of ATEL's standard operating procedures (SOPs), various QC samples were analyzed with each sample set. These included matrix spike, laboratory control spike, and method blank samples. According to the standard methods used for the analyses, recoveries of the QC spike samples analyzed with samples from this verification test were within acceptable limits of 75% to 125%, and the method blank samples were below the detectable levels for each analyte. For VX and soman, the confirmation analyses were performed at Battelle using a Battelle SOP. Calibration standard recoveries of VX and soman were always between 69% and 130%, and most of the time were between 90% and 100%. Standard analytical methods for colchicine, ricin, and botulinum toxin were not available and, therefore, were not performed. QA audits and balance calibrations assured that solutions for these compounds were accurately prepared.

4.2 Quality Control of Drinking Water Samples

A method blank sample consisting of ASTM Type II DI water was analyzed once by Eclox for approximately every 20 drinking water samples that were analyzed. According to the Eclox procedure, the first sample of each analysis set is treated as the control sample that is used to correct the response of the instrument with respect to a clean water sample. For this verification test, this sample was the method blank. When the method blank sample (ASTM Type II DI water) was analyzed, Eclox did not report a percent inhibition. Toward the end of testing, it was ascertained that, to obtain inhibition data about the method blank samples, ASTM Type II DI water should have been analyzed as a sample in some position other than the first in the analysis set. Two method blank samples were analyzed in this manner, producing small inhibitions of 3% and 2%. A negative control sample (unspiked DDW) was analyzed with approximately every four samples. The absolute inhibitions of the negative controls were small, indicating that they caused inhibition similar to the ASTM Type II DI water, which was used as the zero control sample (i.e., set to zero inhibition). A positive control sample also was analyzed once for approximately every 20 DDW samples. While performance limits were not placed on the results of the positive control

sample, the vendor informed Battelle that, if the positive control samples did not cause almost complete inhibition, it would indicate to the operator that Eclox was operating incorrectly. For 14 positive control samples of phenol, the average inhibition was 99% ± 6%.

4.3 Audits

4.3.1 Performance Evaluation Audit

The concentration of the standards used to prepare the contaminant and potential interferences was confirmed by analyzing solutions of each analyte prepared in ASTM Type II DI water from two separate commercial vendors using the confirmation methods. The standards from one source were used to prepare the stock solution during the verification test, while the standards from a second source were used exclusively to confirm the accuracy of the measured concentration of the first source. The percent difference (%D) between the measured concentration of the performance evaluation (PE) sample and the prepared concentration of that sample was calculated using the following equation:

$$\%D = \frac{M}{A} \times 100\% \quad (1)$$

where M is the absolute value of the difference between the measured and the prepared concentration and A is the prepared concentration. The %D between the measured concentration of the PE standard and the prepared concentration had to be less than 25% for the measurements to be considered acceptable. Table 4-1 shows the results of the PE audit for each compound. All %D values were less than 25.

Table 4-1. Summary of Performance Evaluation Audit

		Average Measured Concentration ± Standard Deviation (mg/L)	Actual Concentration (mg/L)	Percent Difference
Contaminant	Aldicarb	0.00448 ± 0.000320	0.00500	11
	Cyanide	0.207 ± 0.026	0.200	4
	Dicrotophos	0.00728 ± 0.000699	0.00748	3
	Thallium sulfate	0.090 ± 0.004	0.100	10
Potential interference	Aluminum	0.512 ± 0.013	0.500	2
	Copper	0.106 ± 0.002	0.100	6
	Iron	0.399 ± 0.004	0.400	0.30
	Manganese	0.079 ± 0.003	0.100	21
	Zinc	0.106 ± 0.016	0.100	6

Given the lack of confirmation methodology for some of the contaminants in this verification test, PE audits were not performed for all of the contaminants. PE audits were performed when more than one source of the contaminant or potential interference was commercially available and when methods were available to perform the confirmation. To assure the purity of the other standards, documentation, such as certificates of analysis, was obtained for colchicine, botulinum toxin, and ricin. In the case of VX and soman, which were obtained from the U.S. Army, the reputation of the source, combined with the confirmation analysis data, provided assurance of the concentration analyzed.

4.3.2 Technical Systems Audit

The Battelle Quality Manager conducted a technical systems audit (TSA) to ensure that the verification test was performed in accordance with the test/QA plan[1] and the AMS Center QMP.[12] As part of the audit, the Battelle Quality Manager reviewed the contaminant standard and stock solution confirmation methods, compared actual test procedures with those specified in the test/QA plan, and reviewed data acquisition and handling procedures. Observations and findings from this audit were documented and submitted to the Battelle verification test coordinator for response. No findings were documented that required any significant action. The records concerning the TSA are permanently stored with the Battelle Quality Manager.

The EPA Quality Manager also conducted a TSA to ensure that the verification test was performed in accordance with the test/QA plan[1] and the AMS Center QMP.[12] As part of the audit, the EPA Quality Manager compared actual test procedures with those specified in the test/QA plan and reviewed data acquisition and sample preparation records and procedures. No significant findings were observed during the EPA TSA. The records concerning the TSA are permanently stored with the EPA Quality Manager.

4.3.3 Audit of Data Quality

At least 10% of the data acquired during the verification test were audited. Battelle's Quality Manager traced the data from the initial acquisition, through reduction and statistical analysis, to final reporting, to ensure the integrity of the reported results. All calculations performed on the data undergoing the audit were checked.

4.4 QA/QC Reporting

Each internal assessment and audit was documented in accordance with Sections 3.3.4 and 3.3.5 of the QMP for the ETV AMS Center.[12] Once the assessment report was prepared, the Battelle verification test coordinator ensured that a response was provided for each adverse finding or potential problem and implemented any necessary follow-up corrective action. The Battelle Quality Manager ensured that follow-up corrective action was taken. The results of the TSA were sent to the EPA.

4.5 Data Review

Records generated in the verification test were reviewed before these records were used to calculate, evaluate, or report verification results. Table 4-2 summarizes the types of data recorded. The review was performed by a technical staff member involved in the verification test, but not the staff member who originally generated the record. The person performing the review added his/her initials and the date to a hard copy of the record being reviewed.

Table 4-2. Summary of Data Recording Process

Data to be Recorded	Responsible Party	Where Recorded	How Often Recorded	Disposition of Data[a]
Dates, times of test events	Battelle	Laboratory record books	Start/end of test, and at each change of a test parameter	Used to organize/check test results; manually incorporated in data spreadsheets as necessary
Sample preparation (dates, procedures, concentrations)	Battelle	Laboratory record books	When each sample was prepared	Used to confirm the concentration and integrity of the samples analyzed, procedures entered into laboratory record books
Test parameters (contaminant concentrations, location, etc.)	Battelle	Laboratory record books	When set or changed	Used to organize/check test results, manually incorporated in data spreadsheets as necessary
Stock solution confirmation analysis, sample analysis, chain of custody, and results	Battelle or contracted laboratory	Laboratory record books, data sheets, or data acquisition system, as appropriate	Throughout sample handling and analysis process	Transferred to spreadsheets/agreed upon report

[a] All activities subsequent to data recording were carried out by Battelle.

Chapter 5
Statistical Methods and Reported Parameters

The statistical methods presented in this chapter were used to verify the performance parameters listed in Section 3.1.

5.1 Endpoints and Precision

Each DDW sample containing contaminants was compared with a negative control sample that, for this verification test, was unspiked DDW. This comparison was made by subtracting the percent inhibition of the negative control within a sample set from the inhibition produced by each sample in the sample set. Therefore, the percent inhibition of the negative control sample within each sample set was zero percent.

The standard deviation (*S*) of the results for the replicate samples was calculated, as follows, and used as a measure of technology precision at each concentration.

$$S = \left[\frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{k=1}^{n} \left(I_k - \bar{I} \right)^2 \right]^{1/2} \qquad (2)$$

where n is the number of replicate samples, I_k is the percent inhibition measured for the k^{th} sample, and $\bar{I}$ is the average percent inhibition of the replicate samples. Because the average inhibitions were frequently near zero for this data set, relative standard deviations often would have greatly exceeded 100%, making the results difficult to interpret. Therefore, the precision results were left in the form of standard deviations so the reader could easily view the uncertainty around the average for results that were both near zero and significantly larger than zero.

5.2 Toxicity Threshold

The toxicity threshold was defined as the lowest concentration of contaminant to exhibit a percent inhibition significantly greater than the negative control. Also, each concentration level higher than the toxicity threshold had to be significantly greater than the negative control, and the inhibition produced by each lower concentration level had to be significantly less than that produced by the toxicity threshold concentration. Since the inhibition of the negative control

sample was subtracted from the inhibition of each sample, the percent inhibition of the negative control was always zero. An inhibition was significantly greater than the negative control if the average, plus or minus the standard deviation, did not include zero.

5.3 False Positive/Negative Responses

A response would be considered false positive if an unspiked drinking water sample produced an inhibition such that the subsequent addition of toxic contaminants could not be detected. Depending on the degree of inhibition in the sample, toxicity due to subsequent contamination of that sample may not be detectable or could be exaggerated as a result of the baseline inhibition. To test for this possibility, the percent inhibition of the unspiked drinking water was determined with respect to ASTM Type II DI water. Therefore, the result of the negative control was not subtracted from the result for these samples. The percent inhibition of drinking water samples collected from water systems using chlorination and chloramination as the disinfecting process were reported as determined by Eclox with no further correction. For Eclox, a result would be considered false positive if the drinking water samples produced inhibitions significantly greater than zero.

A response was considered false negative when Eclox was subjected to a lethal concentration of some contaminant in the DDW and did not indicate inhibition significantly greater than the negative control and the other concentration levels analyzed. Requiring the inhibition of the lethal dose sample to be significantly greater than the negative control and the other concentration levels more thoroughly incorporated uncertainty for Eclox when determining a false negative response. For any result to be significantly different from the negative control, the inhibition needed to be significantly greater than zero.

5.4 Field Portability

The results obtained from the measurements made on DDW samples in the laboratory and field setting were compiled independently and compared to assess the performance of the Eclox under different analysis conditions. Means and standard deviations of the endpoints generated in both locations were used to make the comparison. Also, qualitative observations of Eclox in a non-laboratory setting were made by the verification test coordinator and operators. Factors such as the ease of transport and set-up, demand for electrical power, and space requirement were documented.

5.5 Other Performance Factors

Ease of use (including clarity of the instruction manual, user-friendliness of software, and overall convenience) was qualitatively assessed throughout the verification test through observations of the operators and verification test coordinator. Sample throughput was evaluated quantitatively based on the number of samples that could be analyzed per hour.

Chapter 6
Test Results

6.1 Endpoints and Precision

Tables 6-1a-i present the percent inhibition data for nine contaminants, and Table 6-2 presents data for five potential interferences and drinking water samples disinfected by both chlorination and chloramination. Given in each table are the concentrations analyzed, the percent inhibition results for each replicate at each concentration, and the average and standard deviation of the inhibition of the four replicates at each concentration. Samples that produced negative percent inhibition values indicated an increase in light production by the enzyme relative to the negative control.

6.1.1 Contaminants

The contaminants that were analyzed by Eclox during this verification test resulted in percent inhibition data that varied considerably among contaminants. The percent inhibitions for aldicarb, dicrotophos, thallium sulfate, ricin, and VX were significantly different from the negative control and the lower concentration levels for only the highest concentration level (lethal dose). For colchicine, the percent inhibition increased steadily in proportion to the concentration in the sample. Eclox was especially sensitive to cyanide at concentrations near the lethal dose. Complete inhibition was produced for cyanide concentrations from the lethal dose to at least as low as 0.25 mg/L, one thousand times less concentrated than the lethal dose. No detectable inhibition was produced by botulinum toxin or soman.

6.1.2 Potential Interferences

Table 6-2 presents the results from the samples that were analyzed to test the effect of potential interferences on Eclox. Aluminum, copper, and iron exhibited percent inhibitions near zero, indicating little or no response to these compounds, while manganese and zinc exhibited higher inhibitions of 62% and 10%, respectively.

Table 6-1a. Aldicarb Percent Inhibition Results

Concentration (mg/L)	Inhibition (%)	Average (%)	Standard Deviation (%)
0.28	3 24 5 8	10	10
2.8	-4 15 8 7	7	8
28	1 5 4 6	4	2
280 (Lethal Dose)	31 39 32 36	35	4

Table 6-1b. Colchicine Percent Inhibition Results

Concentration (mg/L)	Inhibition (%)	Average (%)	Standard Deviation (%)
0.24	5 14 0 15	9	7
2.4	13 21 6 17	14	6
24	40 50 37 44	43	6
240 (Lethal Dose)	87 100 84 96	92	8

Table 6-1c. Cyanide Percent Inhibition Results

Concentration (mg/L)	Inhibition (%)	Average (%)	Standard Deviation (%)
0.025	-7 -1 8 11	3	8
0.05	22 7 19 4	13	9
0.25	95 108 109 98	103	7
250	96 97 97 97	97	1
0.05 (Field Location)	4 25 5 19	13	10

Table 6-1d. Dicrotophos Percent Inhibition Results

Concentration (mg/L)	Inhibition (%)	Average (%)	Standard Deviation (%)
1.4	-14 -1 6 7	-1	10
14	5 7 -6 3	2	6
140	5 7 -5 8	4	6
1,400 (Lethal Dose)	27 27 28 34	29	3

Table 6-1e. Thallium Sulfate Percent Inhibition Results

Concentration (mg/L)	Inhibition (%)	Average (%)	Standard Deviation (%)
2.4	-4 -2 -7 0	-3	3
24	-8 -1 -5 3	-3	5
240	-3 12 -3 13	5	9
2,400 (Lethal Dose)	43 49 46 45	46	3

Table 6-1f. Botulinum Toxin Percent Inhibition Results

Concentration (mg/L)	Inhibition (%)	Average (%)	Standard Deviation (%)
0.0003	-3 -1 1 4	1	3
0.003	1 -1 -6 -2	-2	3
0.03	-3 -3 -2 -3	-3	1
0.30 (Lethal Dose)	1 0 -4 -4	-2	3

Table 6-1g. Ricin Percent Inhibition Results

Concentration (mg/L)	Inhibition (%)	Average (%)	Standard Deviation (%)
0.015	-2 5 -1 1	1	3
0.15	0 3 4 3	2	2
1.5	1 5 1 0	2	2
15 (Lethal Dose)	8 11 7 5	8	3

Table 6-1h. Soman Percent Inhibition Results

Concentration (mg/L)	Inhibition (%)	Average (%)	Standard Deviation (%)
0.000068	5 2 0 4	3	2
0.00068	-2 4 2 4	2	3
0.0068	5 2 0 1	2	2
0.068[a] (Lethal Dose)	8 -3 -3 0	0	5

[a] NS = Samples not fortified with any contaminant or potential interference.

[b] Due to the degradation of soman in water, the stock solution confirmation analysis confirmed that the concentration of the lethal dose was 23% of the expected concentration of 0.30 mg/L.

Table 6-1i. VX Percent Inhibition Results

Concentration (mg/L)	Inhibition (%)	Average (%)	Standard Deviation (%)
0.00049	-7 -10 -5 -7	-7	2
0.0049	-7 -3 -5 -6	-5	2
0.049	-6 -5 1 -4	-4	3
0.49 (Lethal Dose)	13 7 11 6	9	3

All of the contaminant and potential interference samples were prepared in the DDW sample and compared with an unspiked DDW sample. Therefore, any background inhibition in the DDW sample was corrected by subtracting the inhibition caused by the negative control sample. To investigate whether Eclox is sensitive to by-products of disinfecting processes, dechlorinated drinking water samples from water systems that use chlorination and chloramination were analyzed and compared with ASTM Type II DI water as the baseline sample. This determination is crucial because the ability of Eclox to detect toxicity is dependent on the light production of the Eclox reagent in a clean drinking water matrix. If clean drinking water produces 100% inhibition of light, the detection of subsequently added contaminants would not be possible. On average, the chlorinated sample exhibited inhibitions of 6% ± 5%, while the chloraminated sample exhibited inhibitions of 0% ± 2%. This suggests that by-products of either disinfection process that may be present in drinking water do not interfere with Eclox results.

6.1.3 Precision

Across all the contaminants and potential interferences, the standard deviation was measured and reported for each set of four replicates to evaluate the Eclox precision. The standard deviation of the four replicate measurements was never greater than 10%.

Table 6-2. Potential Interferences Results

Compound	Concen-tration (mg/L)	Inhibition (%)	Average (%)	Standard Deviation (%)
Aluminum	0.36	-8 -2 8 -5	-2	7
Copper	0.65	0 0 17 0	4	9
Iron	0.069	2 0 10 -3	2	6
Manganese	0.26	62 70 58 57	62	6
Zinc	3.5	8 15 9 6	10	4
Chlorination by-products	NA[a]	[b]	6	5
Chloramination by-products	NA	2 1 0 -2	0	2

[a] NA = Not applicable.

[b] Chlorination by-product data averaged over the negative control results with respect to the inhibition of ASTM Type II DI water.

6.2 Toxicity Threshold

Table 6-3 gives the toxicity thresholds as defined in Section 5.2 for each contaminant. The lowest toxicity threshold concentration was for cyanide at 0.25 mg/L, indicating that Eclox was most sensitive to cyanide. For botulinum toxin and soman, no inhibition significantly greater than the negative control was detected regardless of the concentration level, indicating that the technology was not highly responsive to these contaminants.

Table 6-3. Toxicity Thresholds

Contaminant	Concentration (mg/L)
Aldicarb	280
Colchicine	24
Cyanide	0.25
Dicrotophos	1,400
Thallium sulfate	2,400
Botulinum toxin	ND[(a)]
Ricin	15
Soman	ND
VX	0.49

[(a)] ND = Significant inhibition was not detected.

6.3 False Positive/Negative Responses

No false positive responses were generated by Eclox. High background light production (low inhibitions with respect to ASTM Type II DI water) in both chlorinated and chloraminated drinking water samples allowed for the possibility of detection of contaminants.

A false negative response is when a lethal dose of contaminant is present in the water sample and no inhibition is detected. Table 6-4 gives each contaminant's lethal dose concentration and shows whether or not the inhibition was also significantly different from zero at that concentration level. The inhibition induced by lethal doses of aldicarb, colchicine, cyanide, dicrotophos, thallium sulfate, ricin, and VX was significantly different from zero, while botulinum toxin and soman were not detected at the lethal dose, indicating false negative responses. Nerve agent test strips supplied with the Eclox kit were not tested, only the chemiluminescent toxicity test was conducted. The vendor states that the nerve agent test strip will detect soman.

6.4 Field Portability

A single concentration of cyanide was prepared and analyzed in replicate at a field location to examine the ability of Eclox to be used in a non-laboratory setting. Eclox and necessary accessories were conveniently transported to the field in the hard plastic carrying case provided by the vendor. The carrying case was equipped with holders for each reagent and needed accessories and a waste container to store the small amount of waste generated until it could be disposed of properly. Also, detailed instructions on performing the test were permanently attached to the lid of the case. Fully loaded, the case weighed about 20 pounds. At the field location, Eclox was operated with four "AA" batteries on a small table in the basement of a house. Table 6-1c shows the results of the cyanide samples analyzed at the field location, along with the results of the cyanide samples analyzed in the laboratory. The concentration of the

Table 6-4. False Negative Responses

Contaminant	Lethal Dose Concentration (mg/L)	False Negative Response
Aldicarb	280	no
Colchicine	240	no
Cyanide	250	no
Dicrotophos	1,400	no
Thallium sulfate	2,400	no
Botulinum toxin	0.30	yes
Ricin	15	no
Soman	0.068	yes
VX	0.49	no

solution analyzed in the field was 0.05 mg/L. The inhibition produced in the field was 13% ± 10%, and the inhibition produced in the laboratory at the same concentration was 13% ± 9%, indicating that Eclox functioned similarly at the laboratory and non-laboratory locations. The Eclox reagent was easy to prepare and will last up to a year as long as it is kept at approximately 4°C, making it ideal for field portability if coolers are available for overnight storage.

6.5 Other Performance Factors

The analysis procedure for Eclox was very straightforward. The instructions on the lid of the case were detailed and easy to understand. Although the ETV operators had scientific backgrounds, based on observations of the test coordinator, operators with little technical training would probably be able to operate Eclox successfully with no instruction other than the in-case manual. All reagents and pipettes were color-coded to assist operators in identifying the correct items. The carrying case was used as a sample and reagent holder during testing in the laboratory, as well as in the field, because of the convenient way in which it was designed. Eclox must be operated on batteries because there is no electrical power option. The operators analyzed 15 samples per hour.

Chapter 7
Performance Summary

Parameter	Compound	Lethal Dose (LD) Conc. (mg/L)	Average Inhibitions at Concentrations Relative to the LD Concentration (%)				Range of Standard Deviations (%)	Toxicity Thresh. (mg/L)[a]
			LD	LD/10	LD/100	LD/1,000		
Contaminants in DDW	Aldicarb	280	35	4	7	10	2–10	280
	Colchicine	240	92	43	14	9	6–8	24
	Cyanide	250[b]	97	103	13	3	1–9	0.25
	Dicrotophos	1,400	29	4	2	-1	3–10	1,400
	Thallium sulfate	2,400	46	5	-3	-3	3–9	2,400
	Botulinum toxin[c]	0.30	-2	-3	-2	1	1–3	ND[d]
	Ricin[e]	15.0	8	2	2	1	2–3	15
	Soman	0.068[f]	0	2	2	3	2–5	ND
	VX	0.49	9	-4	-5	-7	2–3	0.49

Parameter	Interference	Conc. (mg/L)	Average Inhibitions at a Single Concentration (%)	Standard Deviation (%)
Potential interferences in DDW	Aluminum	0.36	-2	7
	Copper	0.65	4	9
	Iron	0.069	2	6
	Manganese	0.26	62	6
	Zinc	3.5	10	4

False positive response	Chlorinated (6% ± 5%) and chloraminated (0% ± 2%) drinking water samples were non-inhibitory with respect to ASTM Type II DI water. This shows that there were no false positive responses.
False negative response	At the lethal concentration level, inhibitions produced by botulinum toxin and soman were not significantly different from the negative control or inhibitions generated by lower concentrations of the same contaminant, indicating false negative responses.
Field portability	Inhibitions for cyanide at 0.05 mg/L at the field location were 13% ± 10%, while laboratory testing of the same concentration produced an inhibition of 13% ± 9%. Eclox was easily transported and operated in the field. Detailed instructions in the carrying case and organized packaging made field analysis convenient.
Other performance factors	Although the operators had scientific backgrounds, upon observation of the test procedures, it seems likely that operators with little technical training would probably be able to operate Eclox by following the detailed instructions provided with Eclox. Reagents and pipettes were color-coded to ensure mistake-free analysis. Waste container was included. Operators were able to analyze 15 samples per hour in this test.

[a] See Tables 6-1a-I in the report for the precision around each individual inhibition result.
[b] Cyanide LD/10, LD/100, and LD/1,000 concentrations are 0.25, 0.05, and 0.025 mg/L.
[c] Lethal dose solution also contained 3 mg/L phosphate and 1 mg/L sodium chloride.
[d] ND = Not detectable.
[e] Lethal dose solution also contained 3 mg/L phosphate, 26 mg/L sodium chloride, and 2 mg/L sodium azide.
[f] Due to the degradation of soman in water, the stock solution confirmation analysis confirmed that the concentration of the lethal dose was 23% of the expected concentration of 0.30 mg/L.

Chapter 8
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