Testing Subcommittee Meeting
December 12, 2007
DEP 401 E. State Street
Trenton, NJ

Subcommittee Members Present: Steve Jenniss, Barker Hamill, and Jean Matteo via conference call

Support Members Present: Linda Bonnette, Karen Fell & Kristin Hansen: DEP-BSDW; Lee Lippincott: DEP-DSRT

1. June 2007 Meeting Minutes

The June 21, 2007 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

2. Benzene

After reviewing past Testing Subcommittee meeting minutes, the BSDW could not produce the process which resulted in a median MDL for benzene of 0.12 ppb.

Therefore BSDW again reviewed VOC data from SDWIS and PWTA which were analyzed using methods 524.2 and 502.2. L. Bonnette provided several handouts listing benzene 524.2 and 502.2 MDLs from laboratories for the SDW and PWTA programs from 2002 through 2007. L. Bonnette also provided a handout which calculated the benzene median MDL for each year and for each method. By discussing these handouts it was determined that this procedure used for determining the median benzene MDL can be applicable for the other volatile organics already referred and in the process of being referred to the Treatment Subcommittee.

While reviewing the handouts, L. Lippincott stated that the statistical spread of the MDLs is an issue. B. Hamill stated that is the reason for looking at the median rather than the average.

The subcommittee discussed using 0.15 ppb as the MDL (2007 value for method 524.2). Therefore, 0.15 ppb would be multiplied by 5, which equals 0.75. 0.75 is then rounded to 0.8.

J. Matteo asked if the subcommittee should average the 2002 through 2007 medians. B. Hamill suggested using the last three years of data, which matches the last three year compliance cycle.

Even though the MDL for 502.2 is lower than the MDL for 524.2, the subcommittee agreed to use only method 524.2 MDL data. In addition, the median MDLs will be determined by focusing on only the last three years of data.

3. n-Hexane

L. Bonnette reported that Better Environmental Protection Laboratory analyzes VOCs using only EPA 502.2. The laboratory is unable to detect n-hexane at 0.5 ppb with 502.2. Since the health based level for n-hexane is 33 ppb, the lab manager of Better Environmental Protection Laboratory was asked to determine the lowest concentration of n-hexane that can be detected using EPA 502.2.

The Subcommittee will also ask Margaret Ellis of JR Henderson Lab to run n-hexane on one of their 502.2 instruments.

4. Chlordane

S. Jenniss noted that EPA 505 is an approved method for the analysis of chlordane in addition to EPA 525.2.

L. Bonnette reviewed chlordane data obtained through BSDW's SOC program where the method used is EPA 525.2. Upon reviewing the SOC sampling program data, chlordane had not been detected above the highest chlordane MDL of 0.064 ppb. Chlordane also has a state waiver. L. Lippincott will contact B. Wilk at OQA for a list of laboratories certified for EPA 505 and will obtain their MDLs.

Formaldehyde

L. Bonnette provided an update on formaldehyde. There are two laboratoriess that analyze for formaldehyde: MWH and Underwriters. MWH uses method SM6252B with a 1.4 ppb MDL and Underwriters uses method EPA 556 with a 2.14 ppb MDL. Both laboratories have problems with detecting formaldehyde in the blank and for this reason use 5.0 ppb as a reporting limit for formaldehyde.

L. Bonnette pointed out it is possible that water systems that chlorinate may have low levels of formaldehyde in their finished water. B. Hamill mentioned that formaldehyde is mostly seen in those systems that ozonate.

B. Wilk will ensure that both methods are acceptable for the analysis of formaldehyde. These methods must meet the PQL and all other requirements of the NJ laboratory certification program rules.

6. PCB Study - Update

The QAPP for the PCB occurrence study is written and has been reviewed. DEP anticipates moving forward with the study shortly.

7. AWWARF (American Water Works Association Research Foundation)

6 plants will be included in this study: Passaic Valley Water Commission, AQUA Phillipsburg, New Jersey Water Supply Authority, North Jersey Water Supply Commission, and United Water New Jersey. USGS methods will be used. The details of the project are still being determined.

8. Contract with NJCAT (New Jersey Corporation for the Advancement of Technology)

NJCAT has the included the information from BSDW and DSRT. NJCAT is preparing it to send it to some firms. DSRT is working with NJCAT on the contract.

9. Workplan
Health Effects updated their portion of the workplan at their last Health Effects Subcommittee meeting.

Based on the Health Effects revisions, the Testing Subcommittee decided to change projected September 2007 to April 2008 and March 2008 to December 2008.

K. Hansen will revise the workplan and provide an updated version to the subcommittee.

10. Next meeting: To be scheduled for sometime in January.

Meeting Minutes prepared by:
Kristin Hansen January 3, 2008
Revised by:
Linda Bonnette June 16, 2008