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Bureau Of Resource Protection
Division Of Water Supply (DEP/BRP/DWS) Policy 88-16
Volatile Organic Compound Sampling:
Confirmation Sampling and Discounting Results
(Year 2000 Printing)

Revision Date: 2-22-01
Program Applicability
Supersedes Policy, SOP or Guidance #:
Approved by: Arleen O'Donnell

Policy, SOP or Guideline # 88-16

Background and Rationale

This policy is adopted to clarify the administration of 310 CMR 22.07 regarding confirmation sampling for volatile organics and discounting bad results.

Policy

1. **Use of Field blanks:** A field blank is equivalent to a trip blank as defined by DEP's Standard Reference. A field blank is a sample of contaminant free water prepared in the laboratory in the same type of vial as will be used for the environmental sample. The field blank is sent out with the sample collector and carried in the same manner as the sample and then analyzed in the lab in the same manner as the sample. When confirmation samples are required (in cases where at least 80% of a standard has been reached, or other cases at the discretion of the Department) Public water supply staff shall collect the sample and carry a field blank with them. Both of these samples shall then be analyzed by a Massachusetts certified laboratory.
2. **Duplicate Sampling:** When a confirmation sample result and initial result differ greatly, duplicate sampling may be required. In these situations, the water suppliers must collect two samples, and submit them to two separate independent laboratories for analysis with a certified laboratory analyzing one of the samples and the water supplier paying for the laboratory which performed the initial analysis to analyze the other. Duplicate samples are independent samples collected at the same location by the same person at essentially the same time and under the same conditions. This is necessary to ensure that the duplicate analyses will test each lab performance while minimizing interference from other variables.

3. **Discounting Data:** On the recommendation of the water supply section chief, in consultation with a certified laboratory a test result may be discounted by DEP. This recommendation must be consistent with other available test data on the source. If DWS discounts a particular test value, that value will not be utilized in calculations to determine compliance with the MCL. The discounted value will not be stricken from the public record, but a notation will be made next to it indicating the date and reason the data was discounted.

Adopted: 8-7-96
Effective: 8-7-96

Arleen O'Donnell, Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Resource Protection