

Los Alamos

NATIONAL LABORATORY

Los Alamos National Laboratory
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

Date: January 12, 1998
In Reply Refer To: ESH-18/WQ&H:97-0434
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NPDES

Ms. Diana Gamble
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Compliance Assurance and Enforcement Division
Water Enforcement Branch (6EN-W)
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

LANC / NPDES - HSCWA / NPDES

**SUBJECT: CADMIUM AND LEAD ANALYSIS BY METHOD 200.8 NPDES PERMIT
NO. NM0028355**

Dear Ms. Gamble:

It has recently come to our attention that our Inorganic Testing Group (CST-9) has been analyzing for NPDES Permit parameters Cadmium (Cd) and Lead (Pb) by EPA Method 200.8 (Determination of Trace Elements in Waters & Wastes by Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry) which has been proposed but not approved for NPDES Permit use. CST-9 has been using Method 200.8 for approximately one year beginning in December, 1996.

Although final approval has not been issued by EPA for Method 200.8, our understanding is that it is an acceptable method for the detection of Cadmium and Lead. In addition, we have been informed by Mr. Charles Ritchey of EPA Region 6 that final approval for Method 200.8 is expected in early 1998, and that Region 6 has been given authority to issue interim approval. We have requested interim approval for the use of Method 200.8 for NPDES Permit use from Mr. Ritchey. Until such approval is received, we will be using Method 213.2 (Atomic Absorption, Furnace Technique) for the analysis of Cadmium and Method 239.2 (Atomic Absorption, Furnace Technique) for Lead in accordance with 40 CFR 136, which are approved methods.

If you have questions or require additional information please contact Mike Saladen at (505) 665-6085 or Brenda Edeskuty at (505) 665-0789.

Sincerely,



Steven Rae
Water Quality and Hydrology Group



SR:BE/mv

Cy: E. Spencer, EPA Region 6, Dallas, Texas
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