

Steve Zappe



From: Crawley, Mark [Mark.Crawley@wipp.ws]
Sent: Monday, May 09, 2005 2:55 PM
To: 'carlchavez@nmenv.state.nm.us'
Cc: Siegel, Joel; Plum, Jody - DOE; Whatley, Miriam; 'stevezappe@nmenv.state.nm.us'
Subject: Concern over filtering TH groundwater samples

Carl, this note is intended to confirm the question of filtration of WIPP Detection Monitoring Program groundwater samples that are analyzed for Total Organic Halogens (TOH). The Round 19 TOH samples Were Not Filtered during either sample collection in the field or during laboratory analysis by Severn Trent Laboratories, Denver Colorado.

Note that the laboratory procedure and the SW-846 analytical method do allow for sample filtration if the sample contains undissolved particulate material because the samples do need to be free of suspended material. In the future, if samples do contain visible suspended particulate material, that material must be removed from the sample prior to introduction into the analytical instrument. Fortunately, for the most part, WIPP water samples have historically been free of suspended particulate material and it has not been necessary to filter the samples. In addition to normal particulate material WIPP samples may contain various precipitates due to the very high concentration of dissolved minerals. Such precipitates would be considered particulate material and would require removal prior to analysis.

Filtration is one of the methods that may be used to remove particulate material. Severn Trent's SOP uses filtering as a last resort.

Thank You,

Mark E. Crawley

