



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

APR 12 2001

Scott Stieg
Director R&D
Zellweger Analytics
Lachat Instruments Division
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Milwaukee, WI 53218-1239

OFFICE OF
WATER

Dear Dr. Stieg

We are pleased to inform you that in the judgement of the Analytical Methods Staff (AMS) and the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (OGWDW) Technical Support Center (TSC), QuicChem Method 10-204-00-1-X [November 30, 2000], Rev. 2.1 (MICRODIST) for determination of total cyanide in wastewater and drinking water is comparable to currently approved total cyanide procedures. Because MICRODIST makes significant modifications to the approved distillation (notably, a reduced distillation time), EPA plans to propose MICRODIST for use in National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWR) compliance monitoring programs through a rulemaking (proposal and promulgation). The rulemaking will provide stakeholders with an opportunity to comment on the proposed approval of the method. We hope that stakeholder response will be positive, as validation studies have borne out that the MICRODIST method offers results that are comparable to those obtained with approved total cyanide procedures while offering the advantages of a reduction in analysis time, a reduction in the generation of hazardous wastes (and hence reduced waste disposal costs), the capability for fast and efficient batch analysis, and explicit quality control procedures.

We appreciate Zellweger Analytics' continued interest in the development of environmental compliance monitoring methods. If you have any questions regarding our review of your application for approval (Alternate Test Procedure Case No's N98-0010, D98-0005) or the rulemaking process, please contact Khouane Dithavong (AMS) at 202/260-6115 or Herb Brass (OGWDW/TSC) at 513/569-7936 at your convenience.

Sincerely,

William A. Teliard, Director
Analytical Methods Staff
Engineering and Analysis Division (4303)

for Herb Brass, Ph.D.
Technical Support Center (MS-140)
Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water

cc: Gregory Carroll, USEPA, OGWDW/TSC
James Sinclair, OGWDW/TSC
Maria Gomez-Taylor, USEPA, EAD
Khouane Dithavong, USEPA, EAD
James Boiani, DynCorp I&ET, SCC