



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

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OFFICE OF
WATER

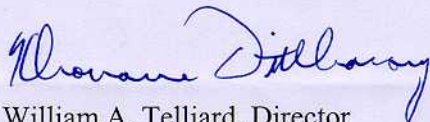
Dear Ms. Lynch:

The Analytical Methods Staff (AMS) has reviewed Lachat QuikChem Method 10-303-31-1-A: "Determination of Alkalinity (Methyl Orange) In Surface and Wastewaters by Flow Injection Analysis Colorimetry" [December 21, 1998] for equivalency with EPA Method 310.2 for the determination of alkalinity in wastewater (ATP Case No. N96-0009). Both methods determine alkalinity by measuring the color change in a buffered methyl orange reagent when mixed with a sample.

AMS has determined that Method 10-303-31-1-A may be used for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) compliance monitoring in the same manner that EPA Method 310.2 is used. The latter stipulation means the method may only be used to analyze samples that are free of color and turbidity (i.e., do not require filtration). As specified in EPA Method 310.2, Section 1.2, if a sample is colored or turbid, methyl orange methods (EPA Method 310.2 or Lachat Method 10-303-31-1-A) are not appropriate for NPDES monitoring. In this case an alternate method which does not rely on colorimetry, such as EPA Method 310.1, should be used.

We appreciate your interest in the development of environmental monitoring methods. If you have any questions regarding review of this ATP, please contact Maria Gomez-Taylor (202/260-1639) at your convenience.

Sincerely,


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

cc: USEPA Regional Administrators (all Regions)
Quality Assurance Managers (all Regions)
Water Management Division Directors (all Regions)
ATP Coordinators (all Regions)
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