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ION CHROMATOGRAPHIC PROCEDURE FOR THE ANALYSIS OF HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, D.C. 20460
Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response

April 29, 1993

Mr. E. J. Solomon
Genmin Laboratories
Cnr. East Geduld & Cowles Rd.
Geduld Springs
2357, Springs 1560
Republic of South Africa

Dear Mr. Solomon:

Thank you for your March 18, 1993 letter to Matthew A. Straus of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency concerning hexavalent chromium analysis. EPA has an ion chromatographic procedure for the analysis of hexavalent chromium, Method 218.6, "Determination of Dissolved Hexavalent Chromium in Drinking Water, Groundwater, and Industrial Wastewater Effluents by Ion Chromatography."

It was developed for the Office of Water's NPDES program (Clean Water Act) by EPA's Environmental Monitoring Systems Laboratory in Cincinnati, Ohio. The current edition is Revision 3.2 dated April 1991. A copy is enclosed for your information and convenience. To date, the method has not been promulgated, but it is being used "unofficially" in many applications where promulgated regulatory methods are not required.

The Office of Solid Waste intends to incorporate Method 218.6 into SW-846 for its own testing needs after it passes work group review and is put into SW-846 format. Another ion chromatographic procedure being considered by our work group is Method 0013, "Determination of Hexavalent Chromium Emissions from Stationary Sources." This is a draft method and is unavailable for distribution at this time.

I have made numerous phone calls to ascertain if there have

been any updates to EPA's regulations governing disposal of Cr(VI) and Cr(III) wastes, particularly with respect to possible oxidation of Cr(III) to Cr(VI) and the possible reclassification of Cr(III) wastes as hazardous wastes. I have been unable to find any additional information on this topic beyond the October 30, 1980 Federal Register notice which you cited.

I hope this information will be of use to your analytical program. If you have any further questions, please feel free to call me at (202) 260-4778.

Sincerely,
Oliver M. Fordham, Jr.
National Inorganic Program
Manager for RCRA

Enclosure

cc: Alec McBride, TAB, (OS-331)
Larry Rosengrant, WTB, (OS-322W)
Matt Straus, WMD, (OS-320W)