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LABORATORY EVALUATION PROGRAM

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

JAN 29 1986

Dr. B. F. Dudenbostal, Director
New Jersey DEP
CN-028
436 East State Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Dear Dr. Dudenbostal:

The Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response has an ongoing laboratory evaluation program for EPA laboratories and contractors. This program entails the periodic analysis of performance samples using specified methods selected from those published in "Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste" (SW-846).

As we promised last summer, EPA is expanding the program and inviting the solid waste testing laboratories of State regulatory agencies to participate. This is a voluntary program designed to allow laboratories to evaluate their capability to analyze RCRA/CERCLA samples using SW-846 methods. We feel that a valuable side benefit of the program is the information, the Agency obtains, on how well the test methods perform in routine use and where method improvements are needed.

The program is structured so that it is a self-auditing operation. Samples are periodically sent to the designated laboratory contact along with specific instructions and analytical standards necessary for the analyses. The samples range from very simple aqueous solutions to more complex matrices characteristic of wastes. Participating laboratories receive four sets of samples per year. Each set consists of two samples, one inorganic and one organic. Results are submitted to EPA for evaluation against referee values. A report is then prepared, and sent to you which shows both how well your laboratory performed and how the other participating laboratories did. No laboratory is identified to any other laboratory. If your laboratory encounters problems in performing a specific test, EPA is prepared to assist you in resolving the problems.

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If you would like to your laboratory to participate in the evaluation program, please contact Florence Richardson or me at (202) 332-4770 for more details.

David Friedman

Manager
Methods Program (WH-562B)