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DEFINITION OF HOLDING TIME

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, D.C. 20460

January 21, 1993

Mr. Mark J. Mensik
Q.A. Coordinator
Evergreen Analytical, Inc.
4036 Youngfield Street
Wheat Ridge, Colorado 80033-6021

Dear Mr. Mensik:

In response to your letter of December 30, 1992, the definition of holding time, as applicable to the RCRA Program, is the time period between the taking of the sample and the completions of its analysis. In the case cited in your letter, the specific holding time of seven (7) days, for semivolatile analytes in aqueous matrices, refers to the time period between the taking of the sample and the completion of the extraction using either Method 3510 or Method 3520.

If you have any further questions, please call me at 202-260-4761.

Sincerely,
Barry Lesnik, Chemist
Methods Section (OS-331)
RCRA Organic Methods Program Manager