



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

August 12, 1996

Mr. Alfredo E. Pierri  
Laboratory Director  
Weck Laboratories, Inc.  
14859 E. Clark Avenue  
Industry, CA 91745

Dear Mr. Pierri:

SUBJECT: Alternate Test Procedure (ATP) Method Approval

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that U.S. EPA Region IX is granting approval to use EPA Method 200.8 (ICP-MS) for analysis of NPDES compliance samples for aluminum, antimony, arsenic, barium, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, cobalt, copper, lead, manganese, mercury, molybdenum, nickel, selenium, silver, thallium, vanadium, and zinc. This letter is in response to your limited-use (commercial laboratory) Alternate Test Procedure (ATP) application letter of July 23, 1996. Approval is limited to work performed at your laboratory in Industry, California for NPDES discharges in states within Region IX (Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Guam, Saipan, Palau, and American Samoa) and is inclusive of work currently performed for Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority under NPDES permit number CA0102822.

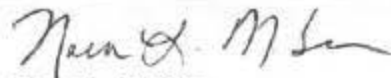
Application for and approval of ATPs are allowed under 40 CFR Part 136.4-5. Limited-use ATP applications require the applicant to perform a study comparing the proposed method to a promulgated procedure (40 CFR Part 136) using samples of the NPDES permitted wastewater. This data is submitted (through the State and Region) to the EPA National Exposure Research Laboratory in Cincinnati (NERL-CI), formerly known as Environmental Monitoring Systems Laboratory in Cincinnati (EMSL-CI), for technical and comparability reviews. Based on the resulting recommendation of NERL-CI, the Assistant Regional Administrator has final authority for approval of limited-use ATPs.

Method 200.8 has been validated by NERL-CI for nationwide use in NPDES monitoring, but has not yet been published in the Federal Register under 40 CFR Part 136 - Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for the Analysis of Pollutants Under the Clean Water Act. Until the method is published, NERL-CI has determined that a limited-use ATP comparison study for Method 200.8 would be a duplication of effort, because the method has already been validated for nationwide use. Accordingly, you have not been required to perform a full method comparison study.

NERL-CI has recommended that Regions approve the use of Method 200.8 on a case-by-case basis for those NPDES permittees and commercial laboratories (James Longbottom, U.S. EPA NERL-CI 11/03/92 communication) who have demonstrated ability to use it. We found that the performance data submitted for analyses of aluminum, antimony, arsenic, barium, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, cobalt, copper, lead, manganese, mercury, molybdenum, nickel, selenium, silver, thallium, vanadium, and zinc meets this requirement.

Please contact Vance Fong, Chief of the Quality Assurance Management Section, at (415) 744-1492 if you have any questions regarding this notice.

Sincerely,



Nora L. McGee  
Assistant Regional Administrator  
for Policy and Management

cc: Ken Greenberg, Chief, NPDES Compliance Section (W-5-3)  
Bob Wills, Chief, Pretreatment Program and Compliance Section (W-5-2)  
U.S. EPA Region IX

James Longbottom, Senior Science Advisor  
James O'Dell, ATP Chemist  
U.S. EPA NERL-CI

George Kulasingam, Assistant Chief  
Richard Spinner, Laboratory Supervisor  
California Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program