

# EPA Fact Sheet

## Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for the Analysis of Pollutants Under the Clean Water Act; National Primary Drinking Water Regulations; and National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations; Methods Update; Final Rule

### Summary

EPA is approving updated versions of analytical methods developed by the American Society for Testing Materials, "Standard Methods," the United States Geological Survey, and the Department of Energy for use in Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act compliance monitoring programs. EPA proposed these methods on January 16, 2001. The final rule responds to comments on the proposal and approves updated versions of certain previously approved methods.

### Background

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approves analytical methods used by industrial and municipal facilities to determine chemical, microbiological, and radiological components of wastewater. EPA also approves methods for determination of drinking water contaminants for determining compliance with drinking water regulations.

On January 16, 2001, EPA published a direct final rule (66 FR 3466) and a companion proposed rule (66 FR 3526) to approve updated versions of methods. If no adverse comments were received, the direct final rule would have been effective on May 16, 2001. EPA received one set of adverse comments from a State agency. The State agency was concerned that the rule would impose a record-keeping burden. EPA withdrew the direct final rule on May 15, 2001 (66 FR 26795).

### Today's Action

Today's final rule responds to adverse comments on the January 2001 proposed rule, approves updated versions of previously approved methods, and corrects typographical errors in the Code of Federal Regulations. No previously approved method is withdrawn.

EPA believes that approving multiple editions of

the same method will benefit the regulatory and regulated community by increasing method selection flexibility, and by allowing the continued use of time-tested procedures.

### Additional Information and Copies

For further information concerning this final rule, please contact Khouane Ditthavong at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water, Engineering and Analysis Division (4303T), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, Ariel Rios Building, Washington, D.C. 20460; (e-mail: ditthavong.khouane@epa.gov) or Herbert J. Brass at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, Cincinnati, Ohio 45268; (e-mail: Brass.Herb@epa.gov).

The complete text of the Federal Register notice may be viewed or downloaded on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/methods>.