Environmental Monitoring Coalition

Meeting Summary

Monday – October 25, 2021 at 3:00 pm ET

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**1.** The meeting was called to order at 3:01 pm ET by Jerry Parr, Chair

**2.** Roll call – Uttenweiler – see attached at the end of the summary

**3.** September Minutes

Provided separately for review. There was no discussion.

**4. EMC Action List**

The spreadsheet has been updated to reflect events over the past month. Note the backlogged EPA items have now been moved into active.

The monthly agenda also will include attached documents as GoogleDocs does not appear to be updated changed documents as needed.

Some of the items that were considered completed have been changed back to active.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/12nGz4B6Kb3-3bmB-rO_mYeYYlgjWy3wS/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=109747537366277579031&rtpof=true&sd=true>

**5. Update on Current Activities**

Collision Reaction Cell Technology – Friedman/Burrows

**Problem Statement:** Collision/Reaction Cell (CRC) technology for ICP-MS analysis has been around for 15 years and has shown to reduce interferences and improve the accuracy of results. This technology is allowed in Method 200.8 for wastewater but not for drinking water. The objective of this effort is to get EPA to approve use of this technology for drinking water analysis.

David Friedman has reached out to Jack Creed regarding feedback from Dan Hautman. There has been no response from Creed. Will Adams from Dan Hauptman’s office discussed that there would be a review to discuss the status of data needed to be provided from the work group.

Jerry took the ATP process in the drinking water document created a secondary document on this issue also for consideration. The discussion does not change the method itself. The data set needed should be defined to move the final efforts forward.

There was a short discussion on what else might be needed to finalize the effort.

**Update:** <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QIOJ_wzzRhilcmTC75QsOhFxuie5xy1z/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=109747537366277579031&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Acrolein/Acrylonitrile Holding Time Study – Friedman

**Problem Statement:** The sample preservation for acrolein and acrylonitrile in aqueous samples mandated in the Clean Water Act and RCRA programs is acidification to pH 4 – 5. This differs from the pH <2 specification for other VOA’s. The goal of this effort is to determine if (1) pH <2 preservation is appropriate for acrolein and acrylonitrile and (2) a 14-day holding time is valid, and then (3) to get EPA to change their preservation requirements.

**Update:** No progress since last meeting. Still waiting on meta data from labs. More effort is needed to address issues with the high bias and rounding errors with the surface and wastewater 2 samples.

There is no update as of this time.

Update on Initial Demonstration of Capability for Drinking Water Methods– Parr

**Problem Statement:** Most EPA drinking water methods require that laboratories conduct an Initial Demonstration of Capability which includes verifying that the Half Range Prediction Interval of Results (HRPI) for all analytes is within limits published in the method. This requirement has proven difficult to meet for methods which contain many analytes. The EPA drinking water program agrees and only requires that the HRPI be met for regulated drinking water analytes. The objective of this effort is to convince states and other assessors to adopt this posture.

**Update:** In the September call, it was decided EMC needs to develop guidance on this topic.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1in-movwiaDpTHAoEr0n5QSMwDtTifnTn/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=109747537366277579031&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Jerry Parr has started a document that needs additional work. Some recommendations are started. The issue is particular to drinking water methods only. There was a general discussion on the uniqueness of the issue and how it can be dealt with by a laboratory. The draft sent by Jerry Parr needs input. Some editing took place during discussion. Jack Farrell will review before the next meeting in November 2021.

Jerry will continue to edit the document based on Jack Farrell’s feedback. Mike Delaney will also assist with the editing. After completion, the document will be posted to the various group websites.

QC Criteria Effort – 608.1, 624 and 625. - Parr

**Problem Statement:** When EPA published these revised methods as part of the 2017 Method Update Rule, the QC criteria in the methods was not updated because EPA did not have the data to support a change. The objective of this effort is to compile such data from member organization laboratories and provide it to EPA so they can update the method QC criteria.

**Update:** No progress since last meeting.

No new update on this topic.

Final Letter to John Griggs of EPA

**Statement:** EMC is finalizing a letter to John Griggs of EPA on Instrument Calibration

Two new tables of data were provided by Richard Burrows to provide more depth of detail. The content of the letter was not changed even with the added table information. There was a short discussion about whether the letter was suggesting one method or a choice. The letter allows for the choice if appropriate. The letter does discuss a calculator to find information.

There was a discussion about including a link to the calculator. There also was a discussion about whether or not the calculator needs to be validated and locked so that the information cannot be changed.

Jerry Parr will review and include the link to the letter once confirmed.

There was agreement to send out the letter without negative comments. [**Note:** after this discussion, the letter was finalized, sent to John Griggs (embedded below) and he acknowledged receipt.]



Collaboration with EPA letter – Parr

**Problem Statement:** EMC would like to collaboratively work with EPA on method, quality control, and accreditation issues.

**Update:** The letter was sent on September 29 and a response received from EPA on October 4. Jerry has prepared a draft of a briefing package and suggest EMC review and finalize this and then begin working on Action Items 1, 2, and 3.

Draft Briefing Package

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/10gVlyWAgWGx_QX3ixquaFbBmjPooqahy/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=109747537366277579031&rtpof=true&sd=true>

**Updated Issue Report**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TFjIigYyCHfV1AYnrZJGkHBhJCH386J8/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=109747537366277579031&rtpof=true&sd=true>

There is no new word from EPA regarding a final date and time for the EPA meeting.

David’s outline (embedded below) is designed to help guide the meeting. This document is in addition to the PowerPoint provided by Jerry Parr.



A discussion ensured to discuss and compare the information included in the two outlines for the meeting. The bottom line of the discussion was that both essentially had the same intent and direction.

It would be beneficial to demonstrate that EMC is working to continue the laboratory community’s efforts to continue to help EPA. EMC wants to assist EPA on areas of focus going forward. It should be understood that EMC consists of a number of groups including laboratories, state groups, other technical communities in the face of the disbanding of ELAB by the prior administration. We should provide more details in the examples of some of the accomplishments to date. Other brainstorming ideas included:

* Problem statement
* Partnership
* Mobilize monitoring community
* Consensus manner
* ELAB
* Goal: Codify relationship to allow EPA method folks to easier reach out to a broad community.
* Secondary Goal: Work with VCBS
* Provide expert advice

The concept of a partnership between EPA and EMC should be stressed. Jerry Parr, Judy Morgan, Jay Gandhi, David Friedman and William Lipps will work on the briefing package before the next meeting in November 2021.

During the extended discussion, Lemuel Walker suggested that EMC should acknowledge there already is ongoing cooperation with EPA. The approach should focus on past successes that already have taken place and ensure that it is clear that EPA has cooperated with the laboratory and environmental monitoring communities. There is a need to show how EMC is already working with EPA.

Use of correlation coefficient to evaluate calibration curves - Parr

**Problem Statement:** Many environmental test methods allow for the use of correlation coefficient (r) and/or coefficient of determination (r2) even though this has been proven to be inappropriate.

**Update:** Jerry updated the letter with more examples. As shown in the revised letter, data are now presented for 3 compounds by TOF-MS and 3 compounds by triple-quad MS.

**Revised Letter:**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1AV4jelVuTE9H3KhXRvzuz1gs-pw8xpcj/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=109747537366277579031&rtpof=true&sd=true>

**Updated Issue Report**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GxTdiXK3nzUYN87OlveZnUiO_AoqUtX0/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=109747537366277579031&rtpof=true&sd=true>

**6. Potential New Business**

EMC needs to look at Method 1633. William Lipps, Jerry Parr, and Kathleen Young, someone from Eurofins through Richard Burrows, and someone from Pace per Judy Morgan.

With the end of the year approaching, it was discussed that another organization should be taking over the duties of meeting organization and minutes to replace ACIL. Jerry Parr will pursue the issue.

**7. Any other business**

There being no further business, the meeting ended 4:13 pm ET.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Uttenweiler  
ACIL Section Executive Officer

**Attachment 1. Roll Call**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Members** | **Organization** | P / A |
| Jordan Adelson | US Navy (DOD EDQW) | P |
| Kristin Brown | Utah DOH | A |
| Richard Burrows | Eurofins | P |
| Michael Delaney | MRWA (retired) | P |
| David Friedman - Vice Chair | ACIL | P |
| Jay Gandhi | Metrohm | P |
| Mary Johnson | Rock River Reclamation District (WEF) | P |
| Kitty Kong | Chevron | P |
| William Lipps | Shimadzu | P |
| Sharon Mertens | Milwaukee MSD (TNI) | A |
| Judy Morgan | Pace Analytical (ACIL) | P |
| Jerry Parr - Chair | TNI | P |
| Steven Rhode | MWRA (APHL) | P |
| David Thal | Environmental Standards | A |
| Sarah Wright / Erin Morin | APHL | A |
| **Staff / Invited Guests** |  |  |
| Tarun Anumol | Agilent Technologies | P |
| Richard Bright | ACIL | A |
| Jack Farrell | AEX | P |
| Michael Flournoy | Independent Consultant | A |
| Zach Mandera | Oregon DEQ | P |
| Brad Meadows | Babcock Laboratories | A |
| Lori Pillsbury | Oregon DEQ | A |
| Robert Uttenweiler | ACIL | P |
| Kathleen Young | PerkinElmer | P |
| **EPA** |  |  |
| Dan Hautman | EPA OW OGWDW | A |
| Adrian Hanley | EPA OW OST | A |
| Kim Kirkland | EPA | P |
| Troy Strock | EPA | A |
| Sarah Burket | EPA OW OST | A |
| Lemuel Walker | EPA OW OST | P |
| Brian D’Amico | EPA | A |
| Sandip Chattopadhyay | EPA | P |
| Jesse Pritt | EPA OW OST | P |