THE STANDARD

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The President-Elect's Environmental Agenda

With the November elections now in the books, we thought it might be worth looking in detail at the Obama Environmental Agenda. First and foremost was Obama's obvious linkage of "Energy and the Environment." Throughout the campaign, Mr. Obama tied energy and the environment together. As a result, it has been somewhat difficult to find environmental positions on aspects of Mr. Obama's platform that were not tied to alternative fuels, windfall profit taxes, and reducing dependence on foreign oil.

In that regard, we choose here not to examine his clean and alternative energy plans, but rather, present an overview of those plans and initiatives specifically focusing on other aspects of his environmental program, as stated on Mr. Obama's website, www.barackobama.com, and other campaign literature.

Air

Mr. Obama and Mr. Biden have records of focusing on clean air issues - the Obama Administration has pledged to continue that focus. As President, Barack Obama has committed to "restoring the force of the Clean Air Act." Mr. Obama insists that under the Bush Administration, a great deal of the Clean Air Act's power was usurped and eroded. Mr. Obama has committed to modify the Bush Administration's initiatives and changes relative to the nation's clean air standards. Of particular focus will be mercury emissions from power plants.

Water

Mr. Obama and Mr. Biden have pledged to "reinvigorate the drinking water standards that have been weakened under the Bush Administration and update them to address new threats." While specific plans are somewhat lacking, policy and position papers have pointed to providing additional federal financing for water and wastewater treatment infrastructure and focusing on water bodies, like the Great Lakes, where threats such as industrial pollution, water diversion, and invasive species are a concern. It is unclear what specifically is meant by the statement, but Mr. Obama hopes to "establish policies to help high-growth regions with the challenges of managing their water supplies."

Other water initiatives include the increased federal regulation of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (Cafés), which raise more than 40 percent of US livestock and comprise a larger share of the livestock industry every year.

Mr. Obama is also an advocate for preserving the nation's wetlands and supports a broad range of traditional conservation programs, including the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and the Wetland Reserve Program in the Farm Bill. Of specific focus, Mr. Obama has promised to help the Gulf Coast restore wetlands, marshes, and barrier islands that are believed to be critical to reducing the force of hurricanes and serve as critical fish and wildlife habitat. As President, he has stated that he will immediately close the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, which his experts contend funneled floodwater into New Orleans.

Expect Mr. Obama to focus on the Great Lakes if campaign literature is correct. Mr. Obama was a co-sponsor of the Great Lakes Environmental Restoration Act, which would provide grants for projects in-

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North Carolina Updating Groundwater Quality Standards as Part of Triennial Review

The North Carolina Environmental Management Commission (EMC) is in the process of updating groundwater standards. The proposed changes have been published on the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources website, http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/csu (or Google: Summary of proposed 2L rule changes). The Department of Water Quality (DWQ) is requesting comments specifically on the economic impacts of the proposed changes. Once the DWQ has prepared the economic analysis and the NC Office of State Budget and Management (NC OSBM) has approved it, the DWQ will begin to schedule public hearings to seek comment on the proposed rule changes. The fiscal analysis, once approved by NC OSBM, will be

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Featured Topics

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published on the OSBM website, www.osbm.state.nc.us/ncosbm/economic_analysis/regulatory_analysis.shtm.

The DWQ's goal is to have the fiscal and economic analysis prepared and approved by early January 2009 and to schedule public hearings for late February or early March 2009.

Clients expecting to be economically affected by the changes in the North Carolina groundwater standards should provide input now.

Some major changes that have potentially significant impacts include:

- Addition of a standard for formaldehyde.
- Incorporation of seven existing Interim Maximum Allowable Concentrations (IMACs) as standards - benzoic acid; bis(chloroethyl)ether; dibromochloromethane; ethyl acetate; hexachlorobutadiene; 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane; and 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene.
- Reduction of the existing maximum allowable concentration standards for arsenic; barium; chromium; 1,1-dichloroethane; 1,4-dioxane; lindane; methyl *tert*-butyl ether (MTBE); naphthalene; petroleum aliphatic carbon fraction class C9-C18; petroleum aliphatic carbon fraction class C19-C36; phenol; selenium; styrene; tetrachloroethylene; and toluene.

Some of the changes of interest are presented on the table below.

Clients who are concerned about these changes and the potential impact on their projects should contact Senior Quality Assurance Chemist Patrick A. Conlon at 610-935-5577 for assistance in evaluating their individual situations. ■

Standards Proposed for Decrease in Concentration*

Chemical Name & Class	Current Standard (µg/L)	Proposed Standard (µg/L)	Compliance Level (µg/L)	Likely Method Choice
Metals/ Inorganics				
Arsenic	50	0.02	5	200.8/6020
Organics				
Tetrachloroethylene	0.7	0.07	0.25	624/8260
Vinyl chloride	.015	0.03	.03	624/8260
n-butylbenzene	70		1	624/8260
Sec-butylbenzene	70		1	624/8260
Tert-butylbenzene	70		1	624/8260
chloroethane	2800		0.50	624/8260
2-hexanone	280		1	624/8260
n-propylbenzene	70		1	624/8260
Naphthalene	21	6	6	625/8270
Phenol	300	30	30	625/8270
Diundecyl phthalate	140		10	625/8270
1,2,4-trimethylbenzene	350		1	625/8270
1,3,5-trimethylbenzene	350		1	625/8270
1,2-dibromo-3-chloropropene	0.025	0.04	0.30	504/8011
Ethylene dibromide	.0004	0.02	0.25	504/8011
Lindane	0.2	0.03	0.03	608/8081

*Where the standard for a substance is less than the Practical Quantitation Limit (PQL), the detection of that substance at or above the PQL shall constitute a violation of the standard.

Virginia Industry Outsourcing Environmental Tasks

Several industrial clients in Virginia have recently contracted Environmental Standards to provide environmental laboratory assessment services that were previously performed by internal resources. Virginia recently passed a bill that has significantly increased the Environmental Laboratory Quality Systems requirements for both commercial and non-commercial laboratories. The bill has effectively made all environmental laboratories in Virginia responsible for meeting National Environmental Laboratory Environment Accreditation Conference (NELAC) and International Organization for Standardization (ISO-1702) quality system requirements.

Environmental Standards has provided quality system needs assessments, personnel training, documentation review, standard operating procedure development/documentation, laboratory audits, and subcontractor audits to Virginia laboratories. Smaller laboratories in the Commonwealth have requested supplemental QA support from Environmental Standards to help implement on-going improvements - without additional staffing.

Environmental Standards chemists are uniquely qualified to provide these QA services because of their extensive knowledge of NELAC and ISO-17025 standards. Please contact Senior Quality Assurance Chemist Patrick A. Conlon (610-935-5577) for information about assistance with state-level environmental requirements. ■

New York Announces Brownfields Smart Growth Initiative

New York's Department of State announced (www.dos.state.ny.us/pres/pr2008/111808smart.html) a new Brownfields Smart Growth Spotlight Communities initiative on November 17, 2008, designed to link communities currently enrolled in the state's Brownfield Opportunity Areas Program with the Governor's Smart Growth cabinet resources in order to promote economic revitalization as well as environmental protection of troubled areas. By integrating the Smart Growth cabinet with these existing programs, the state hopes to reinforce its existing commitment to sustainable Smart Growth and redevelopment. For more information, see the New York Department of State's website, www.dos.state.ny.us/. ■

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cluding wetland restoration, coastal wildlife and fisheries habitat improvement, water quality improvement, and non-point source pollution reduction.

When the Indiana Department of Environmental Management permitted a refinery to release additional ammonia, treated solids, and mercury into Lake Michigan, Mr. Obama objected and called for congressional hearings into the permit and its relation to Clean Water Act provisions; this action may be an indication of the direction an Obama-led US EPA may be headed.

Superfund and Brownfields

As a US Senator, Mr. Obama asked that the US EPA report on what it is "doing to reduce and control human exposure to hazardous contaminants at more than 100 Superfund sites nationwide." He did vote, as senator, to create the Brownfields Rehabilitation and Redevelopment Program in Illinois, which encourages private sector voluntary remediation of environmentally distressed and underutilized sites. As president, Obama says he will "restore the strength of the Superfund program by requiring polluters to pay for the cleanup of contaminated sites they created."

> "We cannot afford more of the same timid politics when the future of our planet is at stake. Global warming is not a someday problem, it is now. We are already breaking records with the intensity of our storms, the number of forest fires, the periods of drought. By 2050 famine could force more than 250 million from their homes…. It's not the future any of us want for our children. And if we act now and we act boldly, it doesn't have to be."
>
> *--Barack Obama*
> *Portsmouth, NH, 10/8/07*

The Environment and the Economy

There is not much doubt that balancing global and US economic pressures with our environment will require careful study and consideration. Will Mr. Obama's presidency result in the "strengthening" of environmental regulation perceived to have been "watered down" during the Bush Administration? Mr. Obama has, to date, made it clear that there are many tough choices to be made and that not all of his agenda will be achievable given the current financial condition of many domestic and international firms and the global economy. The next president has stated that he fully intends to "act now and act boldly." Whether or not these actions include the American and global environment remains to be seen. ■

Centralize And Protect Project Information Using SharePoint

Microsoft Office SharePoint Server is Microsoft's web-based team collaboration and document management technology and has been in use under various names for more than 5 years. Despite its longevity, many users are unaware of its existence and fewer still understand how this technology can simplify their computing lives.

Pictured above is a screen shot of a Microsoft SharePoint demonstration site.

Most often, a user will see this technology as a web-based application that puts information at their fingertips. A web browser is opened and access is provided to documents, task lists, and calendars. SharePoint sites, however, are not limited to these functions. It is very common for project team collaboration sites to incorporate additional functionality such as project status dashboards, discussion threads, wikis, blogs, and even links to other applications or websites for technical data management and reporting and web-based geographic information systems.

Often a SharePoint site template is used and slightly modified to create a site that the project team can use. Site templates that might be used in the environmental industry include Business Performance Reporting, Case Management, Training Management, Discussion Database, Manufacturing Process Management, Request for Proposal, Team Work Site, and Timecard Management.

Environmental Standards provides SharePoint Server 2007 as a secure Extranet for our clients' project teams on our more complex projects and find that the typical use is collaboration on documents and their storage. Most often, our clients have many team members from various organizations working from various offices who all need real-time access to project information. SharePoint simplifies the user environment by requiring the user to open only one application to have access to the team's information (without needing to know more than one website address).

Increasingly, SharePoint is being used to provide our client or project team members access to technical data that we manage on their behalf. Real-time access, using Microsoft SQL Reporting Services within SharePoint, allows us to offer secure, appropriate access to the user based on client specifications. This reporting technology enables the presentation of data both graphically and in tabular or cross-tabular formats against any type of technical data that we may be managing on the project (*e.g.*, status, chemistry analytical results data, or analytical laboratory performance). Combining SharePoint and Reporting Services together allows a project team to store and access all project related information including technical data on one site.

For information about using this advanced technology for your project, contact Director of Information Technologies/Principal Dennis P. Callaghan at 610-935-5577. ■

Environmental Standards employees in October participated in the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's Adopt-a-Highway Program. Approximately 30 bags of litter were picked up on our 2-mile stretch of "adopted" road in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania.

Phil McKalips Named Principal

Charlottesville, Virginia Office Manager and Consulting Geoscientist Phillip D. McKalips, P.G., was named a Principal of Environmental Standards, Inc. on November 10, 2008. During his 8 years of employment with Environmental Standards, Phil has risen through the ranks and earned the title of Principal. Phil has more than 20 years of experience in the development, implementation, and management of environmental and geotechnical projects. He has developed and managed extensive subsurface investigations for environmental and geotechnical projects, designed and conducted short-term and long-term pumping tests, and managed large-scale waste characterization and remedial projects. Phil also has a wide variety of experience with environmental permitting and licensing issues. ■

A Banner Year For Laboratory Audits

On-site audits of commercial environmental laboratory facilities that generate project data are a critical component of the corporate environmental laboratory programs of many of our clients. These clients realize the importance of identifying and addressing laboratory issues that may adversely impact the quality of their data. An audit can actually "pay for itself" in terms of reducing costly resampling/reextraction/reanalyis scenarios. 2008 was truly a banner year for the number of audits conducted. Environmental Standards was contracted to perform over 80 commercial environmental laboratory audits on behalf of 28 clients in 21 states and in 8 foreign countries; many audits were conducted on behalf of multiple clients. For more information on how Environmental Standards can assist with auditing your laboratory facilities in 2009, please contact Quality Assurance Specialist/Principal Ruth L. Forman, CEAC, at 610-935-5577. ■

Out And About

Environmental Standards professionals attended the **2008 Railroad Environmental Conference (RREC)**, held November 4-6, 2008, on the campus of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Technical Director of Chemistry Rock J. Vitale, CEAC, CPC, presented "How to Properly Select a Laboratory by Systematically Assessing Service, Quality, and Cost" and Quality Assurance Specialist/Principal Ruth L. Forman, CEAC, presented "The Finer Points of Reading and Understanding Laboratory Reports."

At the **2008 AIPG Innovative Remediation Technology Conference**, Principal Geologist Gerald L. Kirkpatrick, P.G., presented "Bioremediation of Chlorinated Solvents in the Brunswick Shale of Southeast Pennsylvania" and Senior Geoscientist Joseph P. Kraycik, P.G., presented "Design and Implementation of *In-Situ* Groundwater Bioremediation Technologies at a Chlorinated Ethene Release Site." The conference was held November 4-6, 2008, in Denver, Colorado.

The **Society of Women Environmental Professionals of Greater Philadelphia** held its **12th Annual Touchstone Award Reception** on November 11, 2008, at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Environmental Standards sponsored the wine selection for this year's event.

Environmental Standards was proud to be a sponsor of the **Virginia Manufacturers Association (VMA) 2008 Virginia Industry Leadership Forum and 86th VMA Annual Meeting**. Account Executive Ann Marie Gathright was a moderator for the Forum. The Forum and Meeting were held December 4-6, 2008, in Williamsburg, Virginia.

On February 2-5, 2009, the **Fifth International Conference on Remediation of Contaminated Sediments** will be held in Jacksonville, Florida. Quality Assurance Specialist/Principal David R. Blye, CEAC, will present "EPA Method 1668A Interlaboratory Study and Data Comparability Evaluation" during the poster session on Tuesday, February 3, 2009. Technical Director of Chemistry/Principal Rock J. Vitale, CEAC, CPC, will present "Forensically Identifying Unique Sources of PCBs on a Large Sediment Characterization Project" during the poster session on Wednesday, February 4, 2009. Environmental Standards will also be exhibiting; visit us at Booth # 213.

The **19th Annual AEHS Meeting and West Coast Conference on Soils, Sediments, and Water** will be held March 9-12, 2009, in San Diego, California. Rock J. Vitale, CEAC, CPC, will be presenting "A Novel Modeling Methodology to Assist in Assessing Historical Data Quality for Sediment Characterization" during the conference.

If you would like a copy of any of these presentations, please contact Marketing Coordinator Abby Wilson at awilson@envstd.com. ■

Alaska Regulatory News

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Spill Prevention and Response Contaminated Sites Program issued three technical memoranda in August, September, and October 2008. The information and guidelines presented are summarized below.

- Soil Water Partitioning Tech Memo - Explains the derivation of the revised migration to groundwater cleanup levels for Table B1 contaminants using a soil-water partitioning equation.
- Guidelines for Total Organic Carbon Sample Collection and Data Reduction for Method Three and Method Four - Provides clarification on the requirements for Total Organic Carbon (TOC) sample collection and data reduction for proposed site-specific Method Three or Method Four evaluations.
- Guidelines for Data Reporting, Data Reduction, and Treatment of Non-Detect Values - Provides clarification on several data reduction issues that are commonly encountered in risk assessments; also applicable to site investigation, characterization, and remediation work performed under 18 AAC 75 and 18 AAC 78. ■

Will The Real PPL Please Stand Up?

Have you ever received quotes from analytical laboratories based on different versions of US EPA's Priority Pollutant List (PPL)? It seems that over the last 30+ years, laboratories have lost sight of the original list, which has been modified only once since inception. The PPL was originally developed by the US EPA to be a more practical version of the toxic pollutant list that was established by the Clean Water Act (CWA) in 1977. The CWA list of toxic pollutants was originally created as part of a settlement agreement in the case of NRDC *et al. v.* Train in 1976. This agreement is sometimes referred to as the Toxics Consent Decree or the Flannery Decision. On January 31, 1978, the toxic pollutant list was first published in the *Federal Register* as part of the CWA.

The only change to date to the original toxic pollutant list occurred in 1981. At that time, the US EPA determined that the chemical properties of three compounds did not justify their inclusion on the list - dichlorofluormethane and trichlorofluoromethane, which were de-listed at the request of E.I. DuPont de Nemours and Co. because of their low solubility in water and high volatility combined with low toxicity, and bis(chloromethyl) ether, which was delisted shortly thereafter based on data that indicated a half-life in water of 38 seconds at 20°C. The delisting of these compounds did not significantly change the toxic pollutant list because the compounds were only included in the list by reference under the broader headings of halomethanes and haloethers. While these broad categories of compounds were convenient to use in this instance, the practical implementation of the list was more difficult.

The absence of the identification of specific compounds that should be included in broader toxic pollutant list categories (*e.g.*, chlorinated benzenes) lead to the development of the PPL. Two complications emerged when the toxic pollutant list was put to use - analytical methods were not available for broad chemical categories and the voluminous number of compounds in a category were not practical to regulate. As a result, the PPL was established to identify specific compounds by their chemical names instead of the use of broad categories of unspecified compounds. Thus, the PPL is a set of chemical pollutants that the US EPA regulates and for which the US EPA has established analytical test methods. The PPL was first used in support of effluent regulations for the Steam Electric Power Generating Point Source industrial category and, as such, can be found in the *Code of Federal Regulations* in Appendix A to 40 CFR Part 423.

The US EPA used four criteria to select and prioritize the compounds included on the PPL. The first criterion was the specific identification of a compound on the original toxic pollutant list. The second criterion was the existence of a chemical standard for the compound so that chemical analysis could be performed. The third criterion was that the chemical had to be reported to be found in water at a frequency of occurrence of at least 2.5%. The last criterion was that the pollutant had to be produced in significant quantities.

The complete PPL can be found on the US EPA website, www.epa.gov/waterscience/methods/pollutants.htm. Now you can be sure your laboratory is using the correct PPL compounds! ■

Analytical Services - Know What You Are Buying

Environmental Standards conducts dozens of on-site laboratory audits every year on behalf of various industrial, municipal, and environmental engineering firms. Unfortunately, Environmental Standards has identified (and continues to identify) fraudulent and unethical activities performed at commercial environmental laboratories - even laboratories that possess state certification. This year was no exception as Environmental Standards observed the practice of "dry labbing"; this practice consists of posting results for analyses that are never performed (but the laboratory exists and some analyses are performed). In addition, a "store front" where no tests are truly performed was identified. So what does state certification guarantee?

There are thousands of commercial environmental laboratories in the United States. There is a movement for national environmental laboratory accreditation, but there is not uniformity across the various states regarding certification requirements for commercial environmental laboratories, even among the states that have adopted the national accreditation. In addition, many states have opted to not have any laboratory accreditation requirements. Some states that have have laboratory certification programs maintain certification programs that are extensive and involve rigorous on-site audits and performance evaluation test samples; other states simply require the completion of paperwork and submittal of fees.

When selecting a laboratory, the "buyer" should know which analytical services are truly being purchased. State laboratory accreditation, particularly in those states that have endorsed the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program, has some meaning relative to the quality management systems practiced at the laboratory; the possession of a state accreditation should be considered a good screening tool but should not be interpreted to mean that the laboratory is able to meet your analytical needs. Prior to contracting with environmental laboratories, the "buyer" should perform some due diligence - particularly if the laboratory will be analyzing samples upon which critical decisions will be based. If you require assistance in the selection of laboratory services to meet your project needs, contact Quality Assurance Specialist/Principal Ruth L. Forman, CEAC, at 610-935-5577 for assistance. ■

ALS Laboratory Group Acquires DataChem Laboratories, Inc.

The ALS Laboratory Group, an international company comprised of more than 117 locations in more than 35 countries, has acquired DataChem Laboratories, Inc., an environmental testing laboratory with locations in Salt Lake City, Utah; Ft. Collins, Colorado; Everett, Washington; and Cincinnati, Ohio. ■

Environmental Resource Associates Acquires Analytical Products Group, Inc.

Environmental Resource Associates (ERA) in Arvada, Colorado, has announced the acquisition of Analytical Products Group, Inc. (APG) in Belpre, Ohio. The two firms are leading providers of proficiency testing (PT) standards and quality control (QC) standards. The acquisition was effective on December 5, 2008. ■

Refinery Tank Containment Regulations Change

In November 2007, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) finalized amendments to Pennsylvania's storage tank regulations. The amendments included procedures found in PA DEP technical documents, including "Verification of Emergency Containment Structures for Aboveground Storage Tanks." In accordance with PA Code Subchapter F §245.542 (containment requirements for aboveground storage tank (AST) systems), ASTs must have emergency containment structures that contain releases from overfills, leaks, and spills. The Code also stipulates that the containment structures have a permeability of less than 1 ×10-6 centimeters per second (cm/sec) and be of sufficient thickness to prevent a released substance from penetrating the containment structure for a minimum of 72 hours. For ASTs built prior to October 11, 1997, that cannot meet the permeability standard, the Code allows for verification by a professional engineer that the containment structure, in conjunction with monitoring and response plans, is capable of detecting and recovering a release and is designed to prevent contamination of the waters of the Commonwealth. The emergency containment structures for existing tanks must meet the verification requirements by November 10, 2010.

Environmental Standards teamed with Hagerty Environmental to provide containment certification services for a major oil company's refinery. The services involved performing the following tasks.

- An initial site visit to review the tank layout, view the control rooms, and inspect storm water collection.
- Review of copies of site-specific monitoring program and response plans - Preparedness, Prevention and Contingency Plan and Spill Prevention Response Plan (PPC/SPR); Release Preparedness Plan (RPP); Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) Plan; and Storm Water Plan.
- Collection of soil samples for permeability testing from within the containment structures. The number of soil samples depends on the number of containment structures, containment structure construction information, consistency of the containment material, and the distribution of the ASTs.

Based on the results of the above tasks, Environmental Standards, in conjunction with Hagerty Environmental prepared a tank containment certification report. The certification is good for 5 years (at the discretion of the professional engineer) or until conditions at the site, monitoring program, response plan, or procedures change. Environmental Standards and Hagerty anticipate providing containment certification for other refineries operated by this client. ■

Pennsylvania Legislature Passes Blighted Property Bill

The Pennsylvania state legislature has approved a bill (www.post-gazette.com/pg/08319/927846-454.stm) designed to give communities greater power to bring abandoned properties in line with community codes and standards. The Abandoned and Blighted Property Conservatorship Act (House Bill 2188) would allow courts to appoint conservators with the power to rehabilitate and restore qualifying blighted properties - those that have been abandoned, are in violation of community codes, and have not been on the market for a specified time period, among other requirements. Ordinarily, communities would have to "track down" the owner of a neglected property and administer a court order in order to enforce community codes, a process that can be difficult to complete. The Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania worked for the act's passage and has more information on its website, www.housingalliancepa.org/index.php. The bill was signed by Governor Ed Rendell on November 26, 2008. ■

VA DEQ Continues To Press Statewide Strategy To Address PCBs

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VA DEQ) continues to implement its statewide strategy to address PCB contamination in the waters of the Commonwealth. VA DEQ monitors concentrations of chemical contaminants, including pollutants such as polychlorinated biphenyls or PCBs, in the tissue of fish and shellfish and in sediment. In 2004, the Virginia Department of Health reduced, by a factor of 12, the trigger level at which it issues fish consumption advisories for PCBs from 600 parts per billion to 50 parts per billion. VA DEQ used a 54 parts per billion screening value in 2002 and 2004 to assess PCB impairments in fish; accordingly, the Virginia Department of Health's expansion of fish consumption advisories included those waters currently assessed by DEQ for PCB impairment.

During the past several years, VA DEQ has initiated a number of studies to determine the sources of PCBs found in fish tissue. These studies were approved for funding through the Virginia Environmental Emergency Response Fund. VA DEQ also enlisted the help of local citizens in watershed source identification as an element of its PCB source assessment strategy.

Since 1999, DEQ has been using the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program to address water quality impairments in state waters. A TMDL study identifies the sources of pollution and the reductions of the identified pollutants needed to attain water quality standards.

VA DEQ has completed one TMDL study for PCBs and is in the process of developing several others. The statewide strategy will help VA DEQ prioritize and manage the source assessment and investigation of the large number of PCB fish advisory sites.

Recently, VA DEQ proposed guidance for monitoring point sources using US EPA Method 1668A for PCB analysis; through its association with the Virginia Manufacturers Association, Environmental Standards provided comments regarding the guidance and use of the method in the PCB TMDL process in Virginia. Environmental Standards has developed extensive TMDL experience in terms of preparing Pollution Minimization Plans (PMPs), designing and executing low-level toxics sampling programs, and assisting clients in developing strategies to address the TMDL issues. For more information on our growing experience in this area of environmental compliance, please contact Quality Assurance Specialist/Principal David R. Blye, CEAC, at 610-935-5577. ■

Laboratory Audits Support West Coast Remedial Investigation

Environmental Standards was recently contracted by a United States subsidiary of a premier Canadian company to provide support for an extensive West Coast Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study (RI/FS). The client requested on-site audits of five "short-listed" commercial laboratory facilities to evaluate each laboratory's capabilities relative to the analytical services required for the Upper Columbia River Project RI/FS.

The heavy slag concentration on a beach area of the Upper Columbia River can be seen in this photo. Photo courtesy of US EPA.

The client's parent company is Canada's largest diversified mining, mineral processing, and metallurgical company; a world leader in the production of copper, metallurgical coal, and zinc; and a significant producer of gold, molybdenum, and specialty metals. Granulated slag, which is a metal-containing by-product of smelting, was discharged into the Columbia River from a facility in Trail, British Columbia, from the early 1930s until 1995 (discharge was in compliance with Canadian law). Investigations by US federal and state agencies have indicated elevated levels of metals in Upper Columbia River sediments. Our client reached an agreement with the US EPA on June 2, 2006, to fund and conduct comprehensive human health and ecological risk assessments.

The investigation area associated with the Upper Columbia River extends from the Grand Coulee Dam in Washington to the US-Canadian border, which is approximately 150 river miles. The length of the river from its source to the Pacific Ocean measures more than 1,243 miles. Significant analytical services are required to support this RI/FS.

To proactively assure high-quality analytical results, our client engaged Environmental Standards to conduct on-site audits of the "short-listed" laboratories selected from a rigorous proposal evaluation process. These comprehensive audits assessed each laboratory's qualifications and operations relative to method compliance, quality systems, and good laboratory practices; the audits focused on the analytical requirements for the study - the analysis of beach sediment, fish tissue, and surface water to assess human health and wildlife health risks. The laboratory audit reports provided the project team with critical information on which to base the selection of project laboratories. Environmental Standards will assist the client over the coming weeks with the contracting process for the project laboratories.

The sampling and analytical work for the UCR Project is anticipated to commence in the Spring 2009. Information about this project is available online at www.ucr-rifs.com. ■

What Our Clients Are Saying

The Environmental Standards Executive Committee was extremely proud with the results of a recently conducted independent, confidential survey of our Fortune clients. Our client-based approach to consulting is to deliver services that are compatible with a client's unique business challenges. The responses to and the results of the survey indicate that our clients appreciate this approach and the consistent high quality of our services.

"In all my dealings with Environmental Standards I have found the staff is extremely capable and responsive to my needs. I look forward to more years of exceptional service."

"Very professional, knowledgeable, and responsive."

"High quality services."

"The people at Environmental Standards have always gone out of their way to help us and our partners. We are not the typical client, yet they have been patient, gracious, and accommodating throughout the term of our relationship."

"Their audits are extremely thorough. They are very good at what they do."

"Environmental Standards is the premier firm in the U.S. for providing quality assurance consulting related to environmental projects."

"Environmental Standards meets all expectations of their contract and the personnel are well trained in performing their job duties. Environmental Standards has met the high expectation we have for presentations with regulatory organizations and public meetings with neighbors and residents."

"The lab program is managed extremely well."

"While many of my responses indicate Environmental Standards has "met expectations," my expectations of Environmental Standards are higher than they are for service suppliers in this area in general."

"Environmental Standards has done a great job helping us formalize and standardize our laboratory analytical program. They have been very flexible as priorities have changed and consistently met the deliverable dates promised."

"Environmental Standards exceeds my expectations of a top-flight environmental services firm. I have used Environmental Standards extensively on environmental projects in the PA and Mid-Atlantic Region and have come to expect this high level of service. My clients have consistently been pleased with the high quality of services and the results."

"Excellent company and superior personnel." ■

ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS

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THE STANDARD

Do you want to help us save some trees? To receive a copy of *The Standard* in your e-mail inbox, simply e-mail Marketing Coordinator Abby Wilson, awilson@envstd.com, and you will be added to our e-newsletter distribution list. Please reference "E-newsletter" in the subject.

The Principals and staff of Environmental Standards join in wishing you a wonderful Holiday Season with happiness and prosperity throughout the coming year.