

## METHODS COMMITTEE REPORTS

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**Committee Actions**

A motion was passed to move "Environmental Microbiology" to Committee J from Committee H. Although it has no General Referee, Study Directors, or studies underway, the area is viewed as an important new area for method development. A potential General Referee for this topic will be contacted. The Committee will contact the American Society for Testing and Materials with regard to their activity in the area of *E. coli* in drinking water to investigate the potential for a joint effort to develop a harmonized method. There exists a great potential to work with the Environmental Protection Agency if the new method categories allow more flexibility in the numbers of laboratories and categories for acceptance as some form of AOAC approved method. Other opportunities exist for cooperation in several areas. Possible new methods were discussed; they included persistent metals in soil, perchlorate in fertilizers, and other biological methods.

**Committee Recommendations*****Inorganic Methods, General Referee, Vacant***

A new General Referee will be contacted and the Committee Secretary will provide him or her with the necessary forms.

(1) *Cation Exchange Capacity of Soils*: Study Director Saman P. Amarakone. Continue study. Study stalled due to homogeneity issues. It was suggested that this topic may fit better in Committee I, Feeds, Fertilizers, and Related Topics.

(2) *Calcium Carbonate in Soils*: Study Director Vicki Normandin. No report. The Committee agreed to move this topic to Committee I, Feeds, Fertilizers, and Related Topics.

(3) *Determination of Nitrates in Soil*: Study Director Robert Miller. Collaborative report in preparation. *Note*: This topic was inadvertently listed as discontinued last year. The report should be submitted and topic continued under the Inorganic Methods area in the future until the method is approved.

(4) *Low Level Hydride Metals*: Vacant. Work with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to identify Study Director.

***Organic Methods, Viorica Lopez-Avila***

(1) **995.08 Atrazine in Water, Magnetic Particle-Based Immunoassay**: Approved for Final Action. There is now a need for a Topic Advisor.

(2) *Selected Organic Compounds, Microwave Assisted Extraction*: Study Director retired. Delete topic.

(3) *Volatile Emission Potential of Liquid Pesticides, Thermogravimetry*: Study Director Judith A. Pino.

No activity reported for several consecutive years. The General Referee recommends keeping this topic. Continue study.

(4) *High Resolution GC-MS Methods for Coplanar and Toxic PCBs*: Vacant. Work with EPA to identify Study Director.

***Environmental Microbiology, General Referee, Vacant***

A new General Referee will be appointed.