

METHODS COMMITTEE REPORTS**Committee on Environmental Quality****KAREN S. HARLIN, CHAIR**

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PETER KANE, NEW MEMBER (PENDING)

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Committee Actions

The committee replaced 3 outgoing members with 3 new members in 2003. There are 3 GRs within Committee J:2 are open (environmental microbiology and environmental chemistry); the third (bioassay methods) is currently held by Marion Kelly of EPA Office of Water. There exists a great potential to work with EPA; much discussion took place about how this might occur. This discussion included EPA's current use of ASTM D2777 and its acceptance of Appendix D of OMA (collaborative study guidelines) in conjunction with the ASTM protocol. Bill Telliard saw this as a good possibility. If AOAC's new method categories allow more flexibility in the numbers of laboratories and categories for acceptance as some form of AOAC approved method, then this will also likely be acceptable to EPA.

Additional discussion centered on increasing committee responsiveness and organization of the committee. Several new GRs and Study Directors were discussed and offered by Telliard, Pompey, and Urbansky. Although no GR, Study Directors, or studies are under way in the newly formed topic area "Environmental Microbiology," the topic is viewed as an important area for method development. A potential GR (Eugene Rice) for this topic was suggested and he will be contacted by Telliard. The chairman will contact ASTM 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 (a holdover from last meeting).

Several possible GRs for the Environmental Chemistry topic were discussed. Telliard and Urbansky will make calls to determine interest and availability of several possible candidates. The area of Trace Metals was discussed and it was decided to combine study areas #3 and #5 into a topic called trace metals in Fertilizers, Soils and Plants since #5 would include analysis of the hydride generation elements. Additionally a possible realignment of the GR and Study Director positions for the "Bioassay Methods" topic was discussed. Again Telliard and Urbansky will make calls to determine interest and availability of several possible candidates.

Possible new topics were discussed, which included: perchlorate in soils, ground water, drinking water, and plant uptake; radiation methods; screening methods; and other biological methods.

Pompey suggested several areas of interest and proposed developing a list of the potential new methods. This list could be generated from current ATPs (alternate test procedures) currently employed by EPA as well as the industry and regulatory hot topics.

A possible meeting with AOAC representatives and EPA was proposed at the time of the next OMB meeting in January 2004. The purpose of the meeting would be discussion of funding and method development opportunities.

Environmental Microbiology.—General Referee, Vacant

Bill Telliard will contact Eugene Rice (EPA Cinn.) with regard to becoming GR for this topic area.

Environmental Chemistry.—General Referee, Vacant

Telliard and Urbansky will contact GR candidates for Environmental Chemistry.

(1) *Determination of Nitrates in Soil.*—Study Director, Robert Miller, Colorado State University, Soil and Crop Sci-

ences Department, Fort Collins, CO 80535, Tel: +1-970-493-4382, Fax: +1-970-426-5820. Continue study.

(2) *Cation Exchange Capacity of Soils.*—Study Director, Saman Amarakone, Canadian (Atlantic) Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada, Hugh John Flemming Forestry Ctr, PO Box 4000, Fredericton, NB E3B-5P7, Canada, Tel: +1-506-452-3562, Fax: +1-506-452-3525. Propose to discontinue study.

(3) *Low Hydride Metals.*—Study Director, Vacant. Propose to discontinue topic and combine with Trace Metals (see 5).

(4) *High Resolution GC-MS Method 1668a for Coplanar and Toxic PCB.*—Study Director, Vacant. Continue study.

(5) *Trace Metals in Soils and Plant Nutrients.*—Topic Advisor, Peter Kane, Purdue University, Office of the Indiana State Chemist, 1154 Biochemistry Bldg, W. Lafayette, IN 47907-1154, Tel: +1-765-494-1560, Fax: +1-765-494-4331, E-mail: kanep@purdue.edu. Continue study.

(6) *Radiation (new topic).*—General Referee, Vacant.

Bioassay Methods.—General Referee, Marion Kelly

Whole Effluent Toxicology Bioassay.—Study Director, Vacant. One will be appointed. Continue study.