United States Environmental Protection Agency

August 2009

Office of Analytical Services & Quality Assurance Laboratory Branch

Environmental Science Center Fort Meade, Maryland

Contacts

Office of Analytical Services & Quality Assurance Laboratory Branch

EPA Region 3
Environmental Science Center
701 Mapes Road
Fort Meade, MD 20755-5350

Cynthia Caporale
Branch Chief
Laboratory Branch (3EA21)
caporale.cynthia@epa.gov
410-305-2732 (voice)
410-305-3095 (fax)

Kevin Martin
Sample Coordinator
Laboratory Branch (3EA21)
martin.kevin@epa.gov
410-305-3032 (voice)
410-305-3096 (fax)

Web Links

Environmental Science Center

Office of Analytical Services & Quality Assurance

Lab Services

Quality Assurance

The EPA Region 3 OASQA Laboratory provides analytical support in the Mid-Atlantic. EPA scientists ensure the quality of environmental data by using state-of-the-art instrumentation and rigorous quality assurance methods.

Services

Organic Analysis

Inorganic Analysis (Nutrients & Wet Chemistry)

Metals

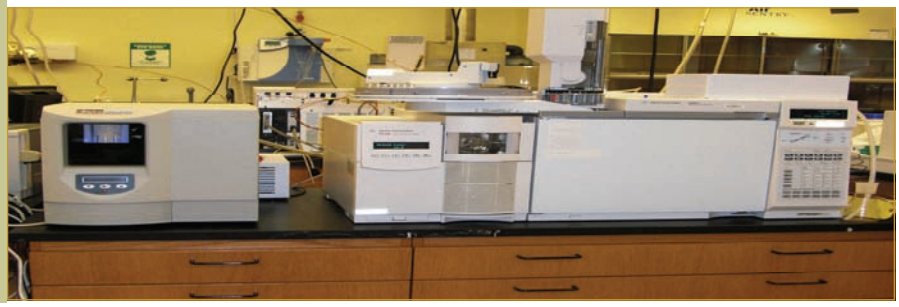
Microbiology

Invertebrate Taxonomy

Laboratory Inspections

Technical Assistance and Training

The Region 3 Laboratory conducts testing for a variety of environmental samples, including drinking water, surface water, air, soil, sediment, tissues, and waste drum samples. Specific services and information on submitting samples to the laboratory are available on the lab services website.



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Roles

Criminal Investigations Support:

Sample analysis, interpretation of results and expert testimony support the Regional enforcement and criminal investigation efforts.

Accreditation:

The laboratory is accredited by the National Laboratory Accreditation Program to perform analyses for organic contaminants in drinking water, wastewater and solid waste.

ERLN Member:

As a member of the Environmental Response Laboratory Network, our laboratory is part of a response network to respond to an environmental emergency.

For more information on specific services or how to submit samples to the laboratory, please refer to contacts list on page 1.

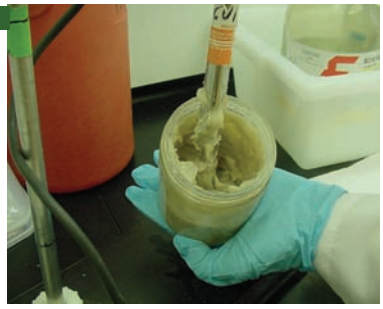
Organic Analysis

Perform analysis of water, soil, air, wipe, and waste samples by various methods using GC, GC/MS, high resolution GC/MS, HPLC/MS, and FTIR. Methods include NPDES, SDWA, Superfund and RCRA methods used in the analysis of volatile and semi-volatile organics, pesticides, PCBs, PCB congeners, nitroaromatic explosives, chemical warfare agents and identification of unknowns.

Metals Analysis

The metals group provides trace elemental analysis in a number of matrices, including air, water, soil, sediment, wipes and tissues. Analytical techniques performed include atomic emission spectrometry (ICP), inductively coupled plasma–mass spectrometry (ICP-MS), liquid chromatography tied with inductively coupled plasma–mass spectrometry (LC-ICP-MS) and cold vapor atomic absorption (CVAA).

Microbiology & Invertebrate Taxonomy



For microbiology, lab conducts testing of water samples for total coliform, fecal coliform, *E. coli*, *Enterococci*, and heterotrophic bacteria. Technical support for estuarine and marine invertebrate taxonomy is provided in the form of invertebrate species identifications, training, and QC evaluations, and is provided for state and regional coastal bioassessments that use the benthic (or bottom-dwelling) invertebrate community as an indicator of environmental health. The laboratory is equipped with stereo-dissecting and compound microscopes, photomicroscopy equipment, electronic bibliographic databases, and an extensive collection of taxonomic literature.

Inorganics

Inorganic group conducts analysis for water quality and nutrient analysis. Analytical techniques include Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD); Total Organic Carbon (TOC); Colorimetric determinations of phenol, nitrogen, and Total Cyanide (CN); ion chromatography (IC); anions; and ammonia by continuous flow analysis (CFA).