



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JAN 26 2006

OFFICE OF
WATER

Joseph Platano
President
Westco Scientific Instruments Inc.
12 Precision Road
Danbury CT 06810

We are pleased to inform you that the Engineering and Analytical Support Branch (EASB) has determined that Westco Scientific's SmartChem Method 420-200E [Revision Date February 11, 2004] for the determination of total phosphorus is an acceptable version of EPA Method 365.4 approved at 40 CFR Part 136, and may be used for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) wastewater compliance monitoring.

SmartChem Method 420-200E determines total phosphorus by discreet analysis. The sample is heated in the presence of sulfuric acid, K_2SO_4 and $HgSO_4$ for two and one half hours. The residue is cooled, diluted to 25 mL and measured for phosphorus. Ammonium molybdate and antimony potassium tartrate react in an acid medium with dilute solutions of phosphorus to form an antimony-phospho-molybdate complex. This complex is reduced to an intensely blue-colored complex by ascorbic acid which is measured at 660 nm. The amount of color developed is proportional to the concentration of phosphorus in the sample.

We appreciate your interest in the development of environmental monitoring methods. If you have any questions regarding the review of this alternate test procedure (ATP Case No. N03-0037, please contact me by email at oshiro.robin@epa.gov or by telephone at 202-566-1075, at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Oshiro", written over a horizontal line.

Robin K. Oshiro
ATP Coordinator
Engineering and Analysis Division (4303 T)
Engineering and Analytical Support Branch

cc:
USEPA Regional Administrators (all Regions)
Quality Assurance Managers (all Regions)
ATP Coordinators (all Regions)
Water Management Division Directors (all Regions)
Danielle Carter, CSC, SCC