



07-04-2004: Microtox has been proposed by US EPA for Whole Effluent Toxicity applications.

Strategic Diagnostics Inc. announces that the US EPA has published a proposal to add Microtox[®] Toxicity Test Technology to the approved methods for Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing. The proposal was included in a package of analytical methods updates under the title "Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for the Analysis of Pollutants Under the Clean Water Act; National Primary Drinking Water Regulations; and National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations; Analysis and Sampling Procedures; Proposed Rule" and published in the Federal Register on April 6, 2004. Microtox Technology is discussed on pages 18171 through 18173 under the subheading "Whole Effluent Toxicity Alternate Test Procedure—Microtox."

Microtox technology is a biosensor-based measurement system for toxicity and provides a rapid, inexpensive and effective way to detect toxicity caused by a wide range of organic or inorganic contaminants. Microtox Technology is often favored over traditional test methods, that use fish, water fleas and other organisms as test species, because the test is much easier to conduct, offers rapid results, is significantly less expensive and can be run by the operators or analysts at the treatment plant rather than sending samples out to commercial laboratories.



National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits are issued under the authority of the Clean Water Act to prevent the discharge of "toxic pollutants in toxic amounts" to the waterways of the United States. Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Tests are conducted using specific methodology and specific test organisms to measure the impact of industrial and municipal effluents on the resident species in the receiving waters into which the effluent is discharged. The EPA states that there are over 200,000 NPDES permit holders in the United States and any of these wastewater dischargers may be required to use WET testing during a Toxicity Identification Evaluation or Toxicity Reduction Evaluation. Approximately 6,500 municipal and industrial wastewater dischargers are required by law to conduct and report the data from toxicity testing at intervals ranging from daily to quarterly.

Commenting on the publication of the recommendation, Matthew Knight, President of Strategic Diagnostics said, "Microtox technology is one of the most widely evaluated platforms for toxicity screening in the world. It is already used as a standard WET method in Spain, Italy, and other western countries. We believe that Microtox represents a significant enhancement to existing methods for WET testing. Using Microtox for WET testing compliance will enhance a municipal or industrial wastewater treatment plant's ability to respond much more quickly to identify potential toxins either entering or exiting their systems. We believe that this can dramatically reduce operating expense, and improve conformance to discharge standards. The Microtox test assay is much faster and less expensive than assays using other bio-systems. We are looking forward to supporting and working closely with the EPA during this significant rulemaking".

When you would like to have additional information about this or the **40 CFR Part 122** (Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for the Analysis of Pollutants Under the Clean Water Act; National Primary Drinking Water Regulations; and National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations; Analysis and Sampling Procedures; Proposed Rule) please contact us @ info@microlan.nl.