



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

JUL 10 2006

OFFICE OF THE
SCIENCE ADVISOR

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Methods Validation and Peer Review Guideline Policy and Chemical Methods Guidance

FROM: George M. Gray, Assistant Administrator
Office of Research and Development (8101R)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Gray".

TO: Assistant Administrators
Regional Administrators

Attached is a new Agency Policy Directive titled, "Ensuring the Validity of Agency Methods, Methods Validation and Peer Review Guidelines," and supporting guidance, "Validation and Peer Review of U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Chemical Methods of Analysis." This Policy Directive and corresponding guidance document were developed by the Forum on Environmental Measurements (FEM), and was subsequently approved and issued by the Agency's Science Policy Council (SPC) on November 21, 2005.

The purpose of this policy and corresponding guidance for chemical methods of analysis is to establish what constitutes the minimum level of method validation and peer review before they are issued by the Agency. During the development of this guidance, the existing state of methods validation and peer review within the Agency, as well as Agency policies and recognized national standards were considered. This is the first in a series of guidance documents regarding method validation being developed by the FEM. Guideline documents for other environmental media, such as biological, microbiological, and radiological sampling and analysis, are in the early stages of development as well.

These documents will be available electronically on the FEM website at <http://www.epa.gov/osa/fem/>. Please disseminate this information to your respective staff for immediate use. Guidance documents are currently in the works for other areas such as biology, microbiology, radiology, and sampling. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lara Autry, Executive Director of the FEM, at 919-541-5544.