



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

AUG 23 2000

Antoinette Ruschman
President
Cardinal Laboratories, Inc.
622 Buttermilk Pike
Covington, Kentucky 41017

OFFICE OF
WATER

Dear Ms. Ruschman:

We are pleased to inform you that the Analytical Methods Staff (AMS), and the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (OGWDW) have determined that Merck Method 14XXXP: "Phosphorus by Ascorbic Acid Reaction and Photometry" [January 2000, Revision 2.0] (ATP Case No.'s D00-0010 and N00-0015) is an acceptable version of the methods approved at 40 *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Part 141 for determining orthophosphate in drinking water by manual colorimetry (e.g., Standard Method 4500-P E, 18th Edition). The method is also an acceptable version of the methods currently approved at 40 CFR Part 136 for determining of total phosphorus in wastewater by persulfate digestion and manual colorimetry, and orthophosphate in wastewater by manual colorimetry [e.g., EPA Method 365.2: "Phosphorus, All Forms (Colorimetric, Ascorbic Acid, Single Reagent)"].

We appreciate Merck's continued interest in the development of environmental compliance monitoring methods and Cardinal Laboratories support of these efforts. If you have any questions regarding the review of D00-0010 or N00-0015 please contact Herb Brass (OGWDW) at 513/569-7936 or Maria Gomez-Taylor (AMS) at 202/260-1639.

Sincerely,

William A. Telliard, Director
Analytical Methods Staff
Engineering and Analysis Division (4303)

for Herb Brass, Ph.D.
Technical Support Center (MS-140)
Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water

cc: USEPA Regional Administrators (all Regions)
Quality Assurance Managers (all Regions)
ATP Coordinators (all Regions)
Water Management Division Directors (all Regions)
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