

# **Quarterly Client Newsletter**

Volume VII, October, 2010

TestAmerica is steadfast in its commitment to be the leader in the environmental laboratory testing industry. With continued investment in its people and facilities, TestAmerica maintains its leadership position in meeting new and upcoming testing requirements. One of the emerging areas of interest is that of Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products (PPCPs). TestAmerica's West Sacramento, CA laboratory is a pioneer in this area.

TestAmerica's West Sacramento
Laboratory Paves the Way for
Testing Pharmaceuticals and
Personal Care Products



As a new class of emerging environmental contaminants, **Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products** (**PPCP**s) include commonly used medicinal, cosmetic, and personal hygiene products. In the last two years, the number of these target compounds has increased from eight to nearly 100. Current water treatment techniques are not engineered to minimize concentrations or eliminate these compounds. PPCPs generally pass unaltered through the wastewater treatment process and are discharged into landfills, biosolid management facilities, lakes, rivers, and oceans. This poses a potential risk to human health and the environment.



### West Sacramento has developed preparation techniques and an LC/MS/MS analytical method

that provide an efficient sample extraction and quantitative results for these diverse compounds. In addition, the West Sacramento techniques are effective on a wide variety of matrix types including drinking water, wastewaters, bio-solids, seawater, and tissue.

The new techniques and LC/MS/MS method accurately reduce sensitivity for PPCPs down to parts per trillion (ppt) concentrations. The analysis time is shorter, providing maximum efficiency. The LC/MS/MS method enables accurate analyte confirmation and is compliant with EPA methodology, e.g. SW-846 8290.

#### **Classes of compounds include:**

- Antibacterial agents
- Brominated flame retardants
- PAHs
- Perchlorates
- Perfluorinated compounds
- Pharmaceuticals
- Phthalates
- Steroids/hormones
- Surfactants/alkylphenols

If you have any questions regarding PPCPs, please call your sales representative or the

**West Sacramento Laboratory at Tel: 916-373-5600** 

Karla Buechler, Laboratory Director Karla.Buechler@testamericainc.com

Michael Flournoy, Technical Director Michael.Flournoy@testamericainc.com

# **TestAmerica Laboratories Expand Support for Low-Level Mercury Analysis**



In addition to conventional mercury analysis by most of TestAmerica's laboratories, four (4) laboratories analyze low-level mercury in water, sediments, and soil by **Method 1631E** and one (1) by Method **245.7**. TestAmerica supported EPA's design of these two cold vapor atomic fluorescence spectroscopy (CVAFS) analytical techniques for the analysis of mercury at low and sub parts per trillion (ppt) concentrations.

NPDES regulatory guidelines and permits continue to move to lower detection limits necessitating these low-level methods. Mercury bioaccumulation in fish is a heightened concern and 41 states have issued fish consumption advisories because of mercury contamination.









#### **Low Detection Limits (parts per trillion)**

In measuring down to low and sub parts per trillion (ppt) concentrations, Low-Level Method 1631 is far more sensitive at 0.5 ppt, than the conventional mercury Method 245.1 at 200 ppt. As a reference point, one part per trillion is approximately one pinhead-sized drop of mercury in an Olympic-sized swimming pool.

Watertown, WI

Matrix	Low-Level Method 1631E	
	Reporting Limit	MDL
Water (ng/L)	0.5	0.2
Soil (ug/kg)	1	0.2
Sediments	1	0.2
Tissue	1	0.2

Dan Milewsky, Client Services Manager

If you have any questions concerning low-level mercury testing, please call your sales representative or call the labs directly.

**TestAmerica Labs for Analysis & Expertise in Low-Level Mercury:** 



North Canton, OH	330.497.9396	<b>Opal Johnson</b> , Laboratory Director <b>Mark Bruce</b> , Technical Director
Pensacola, FL	850.474.1001	<b>Susan Rembert,</b> Laboratory Director <b>John Meade,</b> Client Services Director
Portland, OR	503.906.9200	<b>Teresa Morrison,</b> Laboratory Director <b>Ken Yeomans,</b> Technical Director
Watertour WI	020 261 1660	Karri Warnock, Laboratory Director

920.261.1660



# Contact Updates...

### to Keep you "In the Know"







**Chris Schepcoff** 

**Dan Santaniello** 





Jim Dodsworth

**Chris Weedon** 







Joe Brach



Joann **Ron Misiunas** Marroquin



**Robert Ball** 

Dan Santaniello was named TestAmerica's Chief Information Officer.

**Chris Schepcoff** is the new Laboratory Director in Houston.

**Jim Dodsworth** is the new Laboratory Director in Phoenix.

**Chris Weedon** is EMLab P&K's Products & Shipping Manager.

**David Lissy** is Edison's Client Services Manager.

**Erik Faasen** is a Project Manager in Phoenix.

**Steven Garcia** is a Project Manager in Irvine.

**Aidan Scott** is the New York City Service Center Manager.

**Barbara Rutten** is the Minneapolis Service Center Manager.

#### **New Members of the Field Sales and Marketing Team:**

**Janet Anthony** joined TestAmerica as **Executive Director of Sales** for the West.

Will Elcoate is the Air Products Director.

**Joe Brach** is an Account Executive based in **Maryland**.

Joann Marroquin is an Account Executive based in Texas.

Ron Misiunas is an Account Executive based in Illinois.

Robert Ball is a Marketing Manager.







Under the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), TestAmerica has expanded its service into Canada. TestAmerica laboratories in Nashville, Tennessee and Savannah, Georgia are now both qualified to provide a wide range of environmental testing applications for Canadian environmental interests.

Approvals have been granted by the Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta Provinces, the Northwest Territories, and the Yukon. Expansion is planned for the remaining Canadian Provinces and Territories. For ease of logistical support and project coordination, TestAmerica maintains the required USDA foreign soil import permits and offers bilingual customer service for its Frenchspeaking clients.





## **Sharing Expertise**

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# Leading the Way

#### 2010 National Environmental Monitoring Conference (NEMC), August 10th in Washington, D.C.



Dr. Mark Bruce, Technical Director of the North Canton, Ohio laboratory, presented in two sessions. Dr Bruce chaired the technical

session, Challenges in Low-level Mercury Analyses, and presented a discussion on alternative low-level mercury sample collection processes.

Dr. Bruce's second presentation provided a status overview on the Incremental Sampling Methodology (ISM) guidance, focusing primarily on the drafted guidance related to project planning, field activity, laboratory sample processing, and regulatory acceptance of ISM data.



Michael Flournoy, Technical Director of the West Sacramento, CA laboratory, demonstrated the challenges of analyzing Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products (PPCPs) in high salinity water samples and discussed TestAmerica's analytical solution.



Dr. Richard
Burrows,
TestAmerica's
Director of
Technical Services,
chaired the Best
Practices for Data
Reduction-Turning

Data into Information session. He then presented in two technical sessions, 1) Turning Data into Information – Limitations and Solutions and 2) Quantitation Limits in Texas, providing Insights on the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) Development of Quantitation Limits, to develop rational and meaningful quantitation limits for their environmental programs.

At the May 2010 Sediment
Management Annual Review
Meeting (SMARM), hosted by the
USACE, Seattle District, Business
Development Manager **Dave Herbert** discussed the unique
impacts that varying levels of
salinity have on the analytical
determination of Pharmaceuticals
and Personal Care Products (PPCPs)
in environmental samples.



Larry Penfold, TestAmerica's Quality Assurance Director, presented analytical and cost-benefit data for Incremental Sampling

Methodology (ISM) techniques, based on an EPA 8330B Method validation study, at the National Defense Industrial Association's (NDIA) 2010 Environmental, Energy Security, and Sustainability (E2S2) Symposium and Conference.



William Elcoate, Air Product Director and technical expert, presented the latest developments of landfill gas testing at the

2010 Missouri Waste Control Coalition (MWCC) Environmental Conference. Mr. Elcoate also spoke at the Society of Texas Environmental Professionals (STEP) on the challenges of collecting and analyzing low-level volatile compounds in ambient air and vapor intrusion site investigations.

#### As the Leader in Environmental Testing,

TestAmerica remains committed to provide technical seminars and webinars for our clients. We have a broad range of topics including:

- Air Regulations and Methods
- Understanding the Basics of Radiochemistry
- Low-level Mercury Analysis
- Understanding Reporting Limits and Method Detection Limits



Please contact your Project Manager or Account Executive for details and to schedule an event.