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STANDING COMMITTEE OF ANALYSTS

**Annual report of the activities of the Standing Committee of Analysts
between 1/7/2007 - 30/6/2008**

We are the Environment Agency. It's our job to look after your environment and make it **a better place** - for you, and for future generations.

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Standing Committee of Analysts

The SCA has for many years been recognised internationally for the high quality of its published methods, reviews and guidance relating to the sampling and analysis of water and associated materials. The renewal process is now well established and work is moving forward in many areas all due to the voluntary contributions of individual members. I have again been privileged to work with the Secretary and the other Main Committee members, but most importantly the members of the Working Groups who continue the vital process of producing new and revised methods of the highest quality. I know they all find their contribution to our essential work rewarding and while we have been able to welcome new contributors during the year, we could do so much more with more volunteers. This year I would like to highlight the contributions made by employers in donating the time of their staff for method development and the resources to allow us to prove methods before they are published. Once again my thanks to all who have contributed, I know that their efforts are appreciated by all in the environmental scientific community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Malcolm Morgan', written in a cursive style.

Malcolm Morgan
Chairman (Main Committee)

Report of the activities of the Standing Committee of Analysts between 1/7/2007 - 30/6/2008

This short report provides information of the work of the Standing Committee of Analysts (SCA) carried out between 1/7/2007 - 30/6/2008. SCA is the major source of authoritative guidance on best UK analytical practice for the sampling and analysis of environmental matrices. This guidance is produced in the form of blue books published within the series "Methods for the Examination of Waters and Associated Materials" (MEWAM). Whilst original blue books can still be provided, new publications are now published and made freely available, in electronic format, on the Agency's web-site (www.environment-agency.gov.uk/nls) as downloadable drafts, i.e. PDF files.

If you believe you can contribute to and participate in the work of SCA and wish to get involved in the development and drafting of these documents, or have any suggestions for topics that you believe the SCA should consider, please contact the Secretary, Dr David Westwood. Details are given below. Also, if you consider that previous SCA documents should be reviewed or revised, please contact the Secretary with an indication of your willingness to participate. Details of the activities being considered within SCA are given on the web-site under the section "Documents currently under development within SCA". In addition, the terms of reference and charter of SCA can also be found on the web-site. If you wish to receive advance notice of forthcoming SCA publications then please contact the Secretary.

On 12 September 2007 a joint SCA/SCI meeting was held at the SCI building in Belgrave Square. A total of 42 delegates attended and presentations made by SCA members were well received, as was the opening presentation made by John Marriot, the Government Chemist highlighting the need for certified reference materials. The absence of a dedicated SCA webpage was considered an issue in order to raise the profile of SCA and provide better and easier access to the highly respected documents. Recruitment of members was another issue, as some of the delegates (even though they were representing water companies) were unaware of the activities of SCA.

Following publication of the Index of Methods for the Examination of Waters and Associated Materials (1976-2008) in January 2008, this document is now updated immediately after every bluebook is published on the webpage. Details can be obtained from the Secretary.

This report sets out the activities undertaken within SCA between 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008. It gives details of the meetings that have been held (see Appendix 1) and the drafts that have been published (see Appendix 2). In Appendix 3, the names of the individuals and their respective organisations that have contributed and supported SCA are also given.

Appendix 1 shows the SCA meetings that have been held at Agency offices or, as otherwise stated on premises provided by participating organisations. Grateful thanks are offered to these organisations for enabling these facilities to be used and providing hospitality for members attending the meetings.

Appendix 2 lists the seven publications that have been published on the Agency's web-site (www.environment-agency.gov.uk/nls) between 1/7/2007 - 30/6/2008. Between January -

March 2008, development work on the Agency's website resulted in no documents being published during this period.

A series of five documents (of which four have already been published) is being developed within the Agency to support the MCERTS performance standard for laboratories undertaking direct toxicity assessments. The majority of this work is undertaken by exchange of emails.

Details of drafts currently being produced within SCA and their state of development are also included in Appendix 2.

Appendix 3 lists the individuals (with details of their respective organisations where applicable) participating in SCA meetings and discussions between 1/7/2007 - 30/6/2008. At the WG2 meeting in May, David Sartory announced his resignation as Chairman, a position he had held for 10 years. Similarly, Steve Barnes resigned as chairman of WG8. New Chairmen are in the process of being found. Named individuals have attended at least one meeting. Many members have attended more than one meeting. Without the good will and support given by these individuals and their organisations SCA would not be able to continue and produce the highly valued and respected blue book methods.

The Secretary attended all meetings except one and acted as chairman for several committees where the appointment of a permanent chairman is still outstanding.

Between 1/7/2007 and 30/6/2008, a total of 60 requests were received from the UK and 270 bluebooks despatched. In addition, 5 requests were received overseas (including Bulgaria, Nigeria, Hong Kong, Spain and Germany) for 22 Bluebooks. A further 4 enquiries, where technical advice and information was sought on blue book methodologies, were received and appropriate responses provided. The number of copies of documents provided (as downloadable electronic files) via the web-site is not known, as this information is not collated. Similarly, data on the type of person, organisation or workplace of those requesting information or documents is not collated. Between 1/7/2007 - 30/6/2008, a total of 31325 "hits" have been registered on the Agency's (i.e. <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/nls>) web-site, i.e. approximately 2600 per month. This is over a 50 % increase over the previously reported figure for the last reported period.

For any further information, please contact the Secretary.

August 2008

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Appendix 1

SCA meetings held between 1/7/2007 - 30/6/2008

<i>Cryptosporidium</i>	10/10/2007, 12/12/2007(United Utilities, Warrington) 16/4/2008
Steroids	5/2/2008
Sulphide in soils	5/9/2007, 30/1/2008
TPH in soils	12/7/2007 (Energy Institute, London), 19/2/2008 (Alcontrol, Chester) 27/6/2008 (Energy Institute, London),
Cyanide in soils	21/9/2007, 4/12/2007, 28/2/2008
Working group 2	15/11/2007 (Drinking Water Inspectorate, London) 21/5/2008 (Drinking Water Inspectorate, London)
Working group 5	6/11/2007
Working group 6	22/2/2008
Working group 8	9/10/2007,
Working group 9	20/9/2007 (National Physical Laboratory, London), 10/6/2008

Further meetings are currently planned for the following committees and include

<i>Cryptosporidium</i>	TBA
TPH in soils	3/10/2008
Main committee	TBA
Working group 8	TBA
Working group 5	TBA
Working group 6	TBA
Sulphide in soils	10/9/2008
Cyanide in soils	4/9/2008
Working group 2	13/11/2008
Working group 9	26/11/2008

Consideration is being given to starting work on new topics dealing with acrylamide and metaldehyde, and on total oxidised nitrogen. If anyone feels they would like to get involved, please contact the Secretary.

Appendix 2 Published documents between 1/7/2007 - 30/6/2008

The following documents within the SCA series "Methods for the Examination of Waters and Associated Materials" have been published on the Agency's internet web-site (www.environment-agency.gov.uk/nls) between the period 1/7/2007 - 30/6/2008. These documents are available free of charge as down-loadable PDFs.

- 213 Microbiology of Drinking Water - Part 6 - Methods for the isolation and enumeration of sulphite-reducing clostridia and *Clostridium perfringens* by membrane filtration (2007)
- 214 The determination of cyanide in waters and associated materials (2007)
- 215 The determination of chemical oxygen demand in waters and effluents (2007)
- 216 An inter-laboratory trial on chemical oxygen demand determinations (2007)
- 217 Index of Methods for the Examination of Waters and Associated Materials 1976 - 2008
- 218 Chemical disinfecting agents in waters and effluents (2008)
- 219 The direct toxicity assessment of aqueous environmental samples using the *Pseudokirchneriella subcapitata* freshwater algal growth inhibition test (2008)

Advanced drafts of the following documents are available and within the next six months it is anticipated that these drafts will be finalised and published on the Agency's web-site, (www.environment-agency.gov.uk/nls).

- The determination of steroid oestrogens in environmental and waste waters using chromatography and mass spectrometry
- The Microbiology of Sewage Sludge - Part 3 - Methods for the isolation and enumeration of *Escherichia coli*, including verocytotoxigenic *Escherichia coli*
- The isolation, identification and enumeration of *Cryptosporidium* oocysts and *Giardia* cysts in waters
- The determination of hydrocarbon compounds in soil (A number of methods are being developed for different carbon ranges)
- The direct toxicity assessment of aqueous environmental samples using the *Skeletonema costatum* marine water algal growth inhibition test

Drafts in various other stages of development are in preparation for:

- Microbiology of Drinking Water - Part 4 - Methods for the isolation and enumeration of coliform bacteria and *Escherichia coli* (including *E. coli* O157:H7)
- The Microbiology of Recreational and Environmental Waters – numerous parts are being developed.
- The determination of sulphide in soils
- The determination of cyanide in soils
- The determination of Legionella bacteria in water and other environmental samples - Part 2 - Methods for their detection and enumeration

Further development continues in other areas and additional details can be found on the Agency's web-site under the section "Documents currently under development within SCA".

Appendix 3**Names of individuals attending SCA meetings between
1/7/2007 - 30/6/2008**

Committee	SCA member	Organisation	
<i>Cryptosporidium</i>	Peter Alcock	STL	
	Rachael Chalmers	HPA	
	James Green	Scottish Water	
	Tony Hallas	DWI	
	Howard Hawkins	Three Valleys Water	
	Sarah Houston	AES-NWL	
	Rachel Reed	AES-NWL	
	David Sartory	SWM Consulting	
	Phil Walker	United Utilities	
	John Watkins	CREH	
Cyanide in soil	Phil Clarke	STL	
	Marco Lattughi	BAE SYSTEMS	
	Ian Lewis	Alcontrol	
	Rob Monk	Chemtest	
	Terence Roche	Alcontrol	
	Piers Taverner	WSP GROUP	
	Malcolm Morgan	DWI	
Steroids Sulphide in soils	Phil Clark	STL	
	Richard Colden	STL	
	Mike Hopgood (Chair)	DETS	
	Keith Jones	Chemtest	
	Marco Lattughi	BAE Systems	
	James Mahoney	Alcontrol	
	Steve Moss	Environment Agency	
	Andy Peirce	TES Bretby	
	Neil Housley	WSP Environmental	
	Terence Roche	Alcontrol	
	TPH in soils	Ian Barnabas	AES Ltd
		Stephen Connor	SEPA
		Priscilla Crumrine	DETS
		Hazel Davidson	Alcontrol Laboratories
		Jon Flavell	WSP Enviromental
Richard Glendinning		STL	
Gordon Lethbridge		Shell	
Rosie Merry		Midkent Water	
Martin Maeso		Energy Institute	
Carl Hughes		WSP GROUP	
Katherine Powel		Subadra Consulting Ltd	
Nathan Read		Chemex	
David Renner		WSPGroup	
David Smith		SAL	
Andrew Sykes		Energy Institute	
Kathleen Thompson		Environment Agency	
Neil Whitelegg		WSP Group	
Dan Wilton	Subadra Consulting Ltd		
Susan McClelland	Chemtech Environmental		

**Working group 2
Microbiology**

Bob Barrell
Peter Boyd
Simon Cole
David Drury
David Gaskell
Pervinder Johal
Ashley Jonas
Howard Hawkins
Phil Holmes
Jonathon Moses
David Sartory (Chair)
Jane Sellwood
Richard Stott
Chloe Vernon
John Watkins
Carol Weatherley
Kevin Woolnough

Manchester University
HPA (Newcastle)
Wessex Water
DWI
United Utilities
Severn Trent Laboratories
Thames Water
Three valleys water
Severn Trent Water
Scottish Water
SWM Consulting
HPA (Reading)
Northumbrian Water-AES
Southern Water
CREH
Dwr Cymru Welsh Water
Eurofins

**Working group 5
Inorganics**

Val Argent
Simon Gillespie
Mike Hopgood
Katy Kennedy (Chair)
Terrence Roche

Palintest
Scottish Water
DETS
Environment Agency
Alcontrol

**Working group 6
Organics**

James Fothergill
Russell Gibbs
Lyndsay Howard
Neil Hudson
Robin Law
David McMullan
Gavin Mills
Malcolm Morgan
Sue Owen
Ian Ridgway
Steve Scott
Piers Taverner
Peter Whittle (Chair)

Thames Water
WSP Group
Eurofins
South East Water
CEFAS
Scottish Water
STL
DWI
AES Ltd
SEPA

WSP Group

**Working group 9
Radiochemical**

Chris Dale
Tony Dell
Derek Hammond
Simon Jerome (Chair)
Kevin Odell
Nick Wood
Phil Warwick

AMEC-NNC
VLA
HPA-RP
NPL
Nexia Solutions
FSA
Southampton University

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