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# Accurate News

vol. 1 issue 6

Nov. / Dec., 1995

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"Accurate News" is a publication of Accurate, Inc. Environmental and Laboratory Services

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## *Happy Anniversary!* *Accurate Inc. Celebrates Five Years*

### Accurate Celebrates Fifth Year

Accurate, Inc. would like to thank all friends and customers for making the last five years a success. The lab, founded by Dr. Ali Fazal, began its service to the cities and industries of Oklahoma in September 1990. And, now Accurate, Inc. Environmental and Laboratory Services is firmly established as one of the most reliable labs in the Southwest.

The secret of Accurate's success is its dedication to providing personalized service to all clients no matter the size of the project. Accurate possesses complete analytical capabilities. From lagoon testing in the smallest towns in Oklahoma to complete water, soil and sludge analysis at large industrial facilities, Accurate delivers on its promise of customized service and high performance.

Accurate tailors its services to clients in several ways. The lab offers the only weekly sample pickup service in the state of Oklahoma, maintaining five separate routes through Oklahoma and in Kansas picking up samples and delivering bottles. Many customers praise this free pick up



service as "invaluable."

Accurate always does its homework researching the testing history of clients and updating them on report deadlines and new methods. In addition, the data processing department generates customized data reports to meet each client's particular needs.

Accurate, Inc. is more than just a laboratory. It is a reliable support system designed to assist the customer in all aspects of environmental testing.

\_\_\_\_\_ by Todd Unruh, Marketing Manager

### The Latest in Silver Analysis

Jeffrey Moore of Kodak presented some new information about silver analysis at the recent EPA pretreatment seminar in Little Rock, Arkansas. Kodak research has shown that the use of Nitric Acid as a preservative for metals results in a precipitation of silver. Silver from a photoprocessing operation in particular will precipitate when preserved in Nitric Acid. Kodak recommends Cyanogen Iodine (CNI) as the preservative for this type of sample.

Cyanogen Iodine is referenced in Method 271.1 as an acceptable alternative. If you have an occasion to test for silver in photoprocessing waste, you should explore this preservation alternative with your laboratory.

\_\_\_\_\_ by George Drye, Lab Manager

### Field Notes

A quality testing event depends on proper sampling in the field and careful handling of the sample in route to the laboratory.

John Russell, Field Services Manager, offers these tips that you can follow to help your laboratory effectively analyze your sample.

(continued on back, see *Field*)

(Field continued)

As we mentioned in the last issue, the Chain of Custody is critical and must be completed for every set of samples. You should use the Custody form that your lab provides or make certain that your unique form meets the approved criteria for documenting chain of custody.

Always use the appropriate pre-cleaned containers for each sample according to its analysis parameters. Remember that approved containers are specific to the matrix and analysis requirements. Some samples demand chemical preservation; others must not have any preservation. In addition to insuring proper preservation in the containers, you must realize that each sample according to its testing parameters, must have sufficient volume for the test. Filling the sample specific containers insures that you are providing your lab with the volume needed to complete the analysis.

by John Russell, Field Services Manager  
& Todd Unruh, Marketing Manager

## F. Y. I.

The next time you grab a sample bottle and begin to fill it, remember first to note if any chemical preservation is needed for the particular sample. Usually when preservation is required, your laboratory uses an acid such as  $H_2SO_4$  to prevent bacteria growth. For instance, in analyzing wastewater for Oil and Grease or Phenols,  $H_2SO_4$  is the appropriate acid to preserve the sample. This strong acid is necessary to prevent bacteria from breaking down the oil and grease or phenolic components which are being analyzed in the waste sample. Obviously, if this breakdown occurs in the sample, test results for the parameters in question could misrepresent the

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actual waste content of the source material.

Remember, that the correct grade of acid must be used to successfully preserve a sample. Only reagent grade acid or similar high quality acid is appropriate. Lower grade means a greater chance for contamination in the sample.

by George Drye, Lab Manager  
& Derek Kelly, QA/QC Officer

## Accurate to Expand

After a lengthy series of negotiations Accurate has finally acquired the property adjoining our 505 South Lowry location. The addition will increase our total property by approximately twenty-two thousand square feet. We hope to start building new office and laboratory space in 1996.

Over the last few years we have outgrown our building and our parking lot. But, this new property has already benefited us by providing more room for storage and customer parking, which those of you who have visited us know we need desperately. We are excited that the fifth anniversary of the company's founding will set the stage for yet more growth.

by George Drye, Lab Manager

## Waste Case

Ever wonder what happens to your sample after the laboratory analyzes it? Certainly you want to know that the lab is disposing of the waste correctly. Well, we want to explain what happens to your sample after Accurate analyzes it.

At Accurate all samples are held for at least thirty days after analysis. After that time, the samples are categorized as potentially hazardous or non-hazardous and separated accordingly. If possible, Accurate returns the potentially hazardous sample to the client. Otherwise, all potentially hazardous samples are placed into drums, one for each matrix: aqueous and solids or sludges. However, before this waste can be disposed, it must undergo TCLP (Toxicity Characteristics Leachate Potential) analysis to determine its ultimate characteristics. If it is confirmed hazardous, it is sent to an approved hazardous waste disposer. Non-hazardous samples are sent to a landfill in the case of a solid or sludge material. Or, if it is aqueous, it will be neutralized and disposed as any other aqueous sample.

Although a TCLP is not performed on most samples, the limits still apply. If any one analyte is above the regulation limit for TCLP, the sample is considered potentially hazardous and a TCLP is performed.

The second factor considered in the determination of a hazardous sample, is the petroleum content. If by analysis the sample contains high amounts of petroleum (100ppm), or if by visual inspection petroleum is evident, then it is considered hazardous. Cyanide concentration, reactivity, ignitability and corrosivity are also used to determine hazardous characteristics.

by Yves Dallenbach, Organics  
Extraction Manager