

Accurate News

Accurate Labs

"Accurate News" is a publication of Accurate Labs
Stillwater, OK 74074

Main Office: 505 S. Lowry ■ Stillwater, OK 74074
405-372-5300 ■ FAX: 405-372-5396

Volume: 1 Issue: 15



Oklahoma City: 405-236-5333 ■ Tulsa: 918-587-5300
Enid: 405-237-5353 ■ Wichita: 316-683-1123

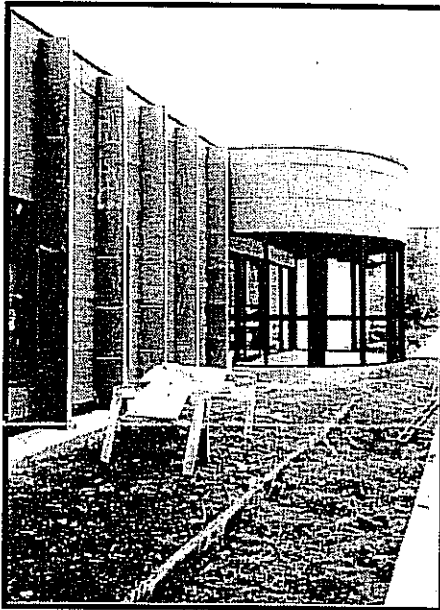
July-September 1997

New Lab Construction Nearly Complete

Construction is progressing quickly at Accurate Labs' new lab addition. Only three months ago crews set the foundation, but now the structure and parking lot are built. The move-in date is expected in September 1997, and anxious laboratory personnel are eagerly awaiting its completion.

The new addition will not only give more space to personnel in the original building, but it will easily accommodate the staff now housed in temporary structures. The addition doubles the size of the existing building adding 3800 square feet and a large parking lot, and furnishes space for administration, field services, marketing, an organics lab, a break room, and a large conference room.

Accurate Labs invites you to visit next time you are in Stillwater. Also, the company is planning a



December open-house in conjunction with Accurate Labs' seven year anniversary.

by J. Cloud

ODEQ Amends Rules Affecting Laboratory Certification

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, in January 1997, granted a certification extension for all valid, commercial, environmental laboratories stretching the active date from May 31, 1997 to August 31, 1997.

Rule amendments enacted by the ODEQ, changed the certification year to begin September 1 through August 31 of the next year. In the past the year ran from June through May, so this caused some confusion for labs and their customers. Because this change left a three month "hole" in the 1997 certification period for all commercial, environmental laboratories, the state agency needed to extend this current validation.

Though some wastewater plant operators, pretreatment coordinators, and industry representatives are concerned now that their lab is not certified for the necessary analysis, they can be confident that their lab is responsibly operating on interim validation through August 1997.

Any questions about this lab certification amendment should be directed to Ken Pence at the ODEQ.

by T. Unruh



EPA Pretreatment Conference Hits the Beach

Many of Oklahoma's Pretreatment Coordinators attended in May the EPA Region 6 conference in Corpus Christi, Texas. And, Accurate Labs was there as always. Here is a brief report on some of the topics that were discussed.

We've heard it before and we heard it again at this year's conference...the EPA reviewed the new Hexane method for Oil and Grease analysis. It seems there is no shortage of discussion about the method, but no permanent action has been taken regarding its formal approval. Though it appears that the EPA is much closer to making its decision, the regulation is months away. The debate is whether or not the new method should be implemented gradually, over six months, or immediately enforced with no probationary period during which analytical results from both methods will be accepted.

This is a complicated decision and the change will affect many cities and industries, so the best plan is to be prepared. Stay in touch with our lab if you need assistance.

Another interesting topic at the conference was "ultra-clean" sampling methods for analysis of trace metals in industrial discharge. The speaker presented compelling evidence that a large part of the metal pollution present in a sample is the result of contamination during the sampling event and not pollution from the industry's or city's actual waste

stream. The impact of this knowledge is easy to appreciate especially when city detection limits are low and any metal presence is significant. When sampling, the technician must take every precaution, following all correct procedures to obtain a "clean", truly representative sample. And, as the "ultra-clean" sampling method proposes, collecting the sample in a dramatically cleaner, and more protected environment is an effective way to lower metals levels by decreasing the field contamination.

Also presented at the conference were pollution prevention case studies. Industry representatives explained their aggressive programs, and these always give pretreatment coordinators new ideas to take back to their own local industrial users.

Accurate Labs hopes to see all of you again at next year's conference.

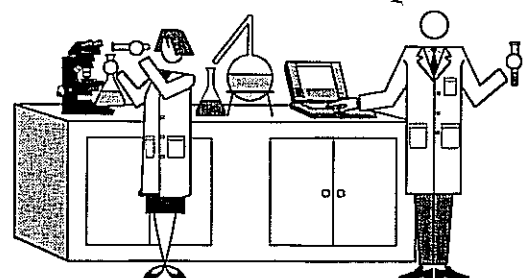
by T. Unruh

Accurate Labs To Offer Operator Training Courses

Accurate Labs will be offering water and wastewater laboratory operator training classes with the tentative starting date January 1998.

Using a well-equipped classroom within the new Accurate Labs facility in Stillwater, Oklahoma, operators from throughout the state can increase their knowledge about treatment plant operations and improve their basic laboratory skills.

The Accurate training courses will address subjects that are fundamental to plant operations, but which are often neglected in routine training. These classes are not substitutions for the regular state certification courses, but rather a program custom-designed to educate the operator in basic





skills which are needed in day-to-day operations. The intent is to make the training program more convenient, more informative, and inexpensive. Ultimately, Accurate Labs will offer a comprehensive curriculum including courses for state certification as well.

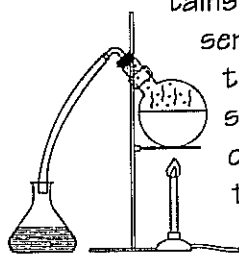
Preparing for this training program, Accurate Labs will contact many operators seeking feedback to write the most effective courses and arrange convenient schedules. Watch for an announcement in your mail concerning these classes. And, please call if you have any suggestions.

by J. Cloud

Consider Alternate Method for Silver Analysis

272.2

Accurate Labs follows EPA method ~~271.1~~ 272.2 for Silver (Ag) analysis using Cyanogen Iodine sample preservation when the wastewater is influenced by photo-processing waste. If an industrial waste stream contains photo-processing waste, this preservative should be used rather than the standard Nitric acid (HNO₃) preservative that is necessary for all other metals analysis in wastewater.



Since late 1995 at the EPA pretreatment conference when Accurate Labs learned about the effectiveness of this alternate analytical method, we have performed the test with excellent results. Even now, we are one of the few labs that have implemented this more appropriate method.

According to studies-one conducted by Kodak the use of Nitric acid preservative, most commonly used for metals samples, causes Silver to precipitate especially in photo-processing waste, adversely affecting the test result. The CNI method does not affect the sample in this way. In our own lab we generate better results and QA/QC with the CNI method.

Because many industrial users and city pretreatment programs deal with Silver contamination prob-

lems and very low limits, the most accurate method should be used in analysis. Call us about CNI preservation and this alternate method; consider its use for your NPDES monitoring.

by T. Unruh

Chain Reaction

Chain of Custody's are an essential part of sampling and laboratory services, and they are steadily becoming even more important as

city regulators and state agencies are requiring more sample information on the Chain of Custody.

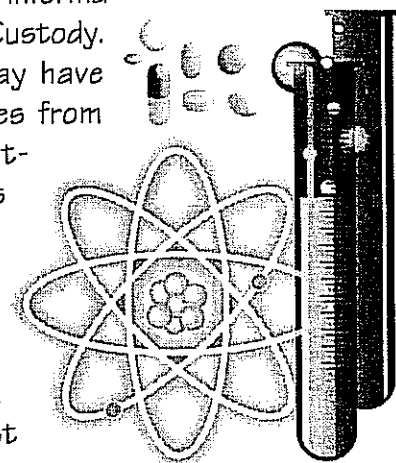
Industrial users may have even received notices from their local pretreatment coordinators regarding incomplete Chain of Custody documentation.

Temperature, pH, and calibration data, which have in the past been recorded on separate field data sheets, now are required by some cities to appear on the Chain of Custody. Other information which is also required for some agencies is a complete description of sample containers used for each parameter type.

The Chain of Custody is a legal document which must be able to describe lab samples thoroughly and defend their integrity. So, this document's scope must increase to include accurate field data as well. This information adds extra assurance that these tests-like pH, temperature- are being conducted in the field as required.

Look for some changes in Accurate Labs' Chain of Custody form to accommodate these new bits of information. More than ever, this document is a critical record and legal requisite when submitting lab samples.

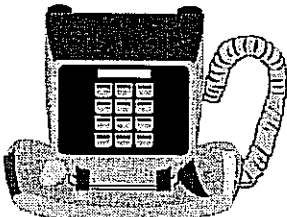
by J. Cloud



Accurate Labs

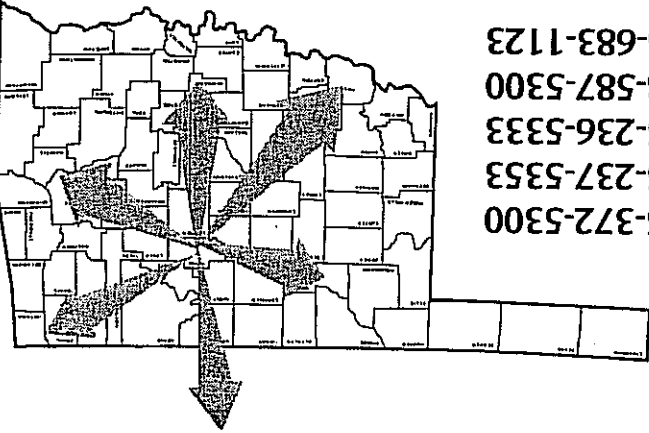


Accurate Labs will pick up your samples along seven statewide routes. Please call.



Stillwater
Enid
Oklahoma City
Tulsa
Wichita

405-372-5300
405-237-5353
405-236-5333
918-587-5300
316-683-1123



A map of Oklahoma with seven shaded routes radiating from the central region. The routes are: 1) North to the Canadian border, 2) North to the Canadian border and West to the Texas border, 3) West to the Texas border, 4) West to the Texas border and South to the Texas border, 5) South to the Texas border, 6) South to the Texas border and East to the Texas border, and 7) East to the Texas border.

Accurate Labs



505 S. Lowry St.
Stillwater, OK 74074