Accurate Environmental Laboratories

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Geosmin and MIB

In the summer months, blue-green algae that die and decompose in water supplies can release Geosmin and Methyl-Isoborneol (MIB). These two compounds have been found to be the major contributors to most drinking water having an "earthy or musty" taste and odor. These compounds can be noticed by customers at very low concentrations, and need to be monitored during water treatment to ensure a pleasing final product. Generally, Geosmin becomes an aesthetic issue for customers when levels are in the range of 20-30 nanograms (one millionth of a milligram) per liter, but some people who are particularly sensitive may notice it at levels above 10. **Accurate Labs has a reporting limit of 5 nanograms per liter (ng/L)**.

Several cities in the region have taste and odor problems with their drinking water and most, if not all, of these can be attributed to geosmin. Since first being identified in the early 1960s, geosmin and MIB have been the focus of considerable research, but still remain poorly understood throughout the water industry, and misconceptions which impede the prediction, treatment, and control of these volatile organic compounds (VOCs) persist.

Accurate Environmental Labs has been testing for geosmin and MIB for over a decade. In fact, **Accurate Labs** is one of the few labs, and **possibly the only commercial lab in Oklahoma** that is currently **analyzing for these compounds**. If your system is experiencing taste and odor problems that you suspect may be caused by geosmin and MIB, **contact Danny Chance at Accurate Environmental Labs** for more information.

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