

IDEXX

Literature Cover Sheet

IDEXX Library #: 5AE

Topic: Oregon, USA Approval of Colilert and Quanti-Tray for *E. coli* testing in WasteWater

Title: Letter to the USEPA Region 10 Administrator

Author(s): Michael Downs, Oregon Dept of Environmental Quality

Date: March 11, 1996

Highlights:

- Oregon has changed from using fecal coliforms to using *E. coli* for fresh water and estuarine waters
- Colilert and Quanti-Tray are approved methods

March 11, 1996

Oregon

Bob Robichaud
 EPA - Region X
 NPDES Permit Unit, OW-130
 1200 Sixth Avenue
 Seattle, WA 98101

DEPARTMENT OF
 ENVIRONMENTAL
 QUALITY

Re: Methods Selection for *E. Coli* Determination

Dear Mr. Robichaud:

The Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) recently adopted Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) that revised the water quality standard for bacteria. The indicator species for freshwaters and estuarine waters other than shellfish growing waters was changed from fecal coliform to *Escherichia coli*.

Since 40 CFR Part 136.3 does not list methods for *E. coli* analysis, pertinent Department staff have been meeting with representatives of several POTWs, the Association of Clean Water Agencies, and the Oregon Health Division Laboratory to review, test, and select methods that are believed to be appropriate for the determination of *E. coli* bacteria as prescribed under the revised standard. In keeping with the current trend to allow more flexibility in the selection of approved analytical methods, a list of potentially acceptable methods was generated and tested. The four methods listed below performed most consistently and effectively and thus are recommended for use in analysis of *E. coli* under Oregon's new bacteria standard. From this list of approved methods, a Reference Method was designated to serve as a benchmark, should the need arise.

<u>Method</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Method Number</u>
1. mTEC agar, MF	Standard Methods, 19 Edition	9-28	9213 D
2. EC-MUG, MF	Standard Methods, 19 Edition	9-63	9222 G
3. Chromogenic Substrate, MPN	Standard Methods, 19 Edition	9-65	9223 B
4. Colilert QT	Idexx Laboratories, Inc.		

<u>Reference Method</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Method Number</u>
1. mTEC agar, MF	Standard Methods, 19 Edition	9-28	9213 D

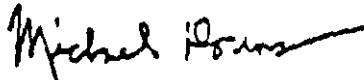
Pursuant to 40 CFR 122.44(i)(1)(iv), as NPDES permits are renewed or modified to include the *E. coli* standard, the above methods will be specified in the permit.

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Should you have any questions regarding the use of the stated methods, please contact Judy Johndahl at (503)229-6896 or Chris Redman at (503)229-5985.

Sincerely,



Michael Downs
Administrator
Water Quality Division

- cc. Sylvia Kawabata, NPDES Compliance Unit, EPA
Willie Olandria, EPA-000
Bob Sokolow, Public Health Laboratories, OR Health Division
Janet Gillaspie, Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies
Judy Johndahl, Water Quality Division, DEQ
Rick Gates and Chris Redman, Laboratory Division, DEQ