



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAY - 8 2001

OFFICE OF
WATER

John Stone
Vice President
Environmental Express, Ltd.
490 Wando Park Blvd.
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

Dear Mr. Stone:

This letter responds to your letter regarding the use of the Environmental Express HotBlock™ digestion system with EPA methods currently approved or soon to be proposed for the determination of mercury. Specifically your letter referenced EPA Methods 245.1, 245.2, 245.7 (to be proposed), 7470, 7471, and 1631. As stated in an earlier letter, EPA does not approve or endorse specific instrumentation. However, provided that all procedures in the approved methods are followed, and all QA/QC criteria are met, the HotBlock™ is acceptable for use as a heating source in methods approved or proposed by EPA's Office of Water for use in National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) or National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWR) compliance monitoring. These methods include but are not limited to EPA Methods 245.1, 245.2, 245.7 and 1631.

For written clarification regarding the use of the Environmental Express HotBlock™ with EPA Methods 7470 and 7471, or other methods contained EPA's Office of Solid Waste methods manual, known as Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste: Physical/Chemical Methods (SW-846), you will need to contact EPA's Office of Solid Waste. Written inquiries regarding SW-846 methods may be submitted to the following address: OSW Methods Team, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Solid Waste (5307W), Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20460, Fax: 703-308-0511.

Alternatively, you may submit an inquiry through the Methods Information Communication Exchange (MICE) Service. The service provides timely answers to method-related questions and takes comments on technical issues regarding the EPA Office of Solid Waste methods. The MICE Service can be reached by telephone (703-676-4690), by fax (703-903-1373), or by e-mail: mice@cpmx.saic.com.

If I can be of additional assistance on this and other matters, please write or call me at (202) 260-1639 at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Maria Gomez-Taylor, Ph.D.
Analytical Method Staff
Engineering and Analysis Division (4304)