

# *US EPA Drinking Water Method Flexibility*

TNI Assessment Forum

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The background of the slide is a solid blue color. In the lower half, there are several faint, light blue circular ripples of varying sizes, resembling water droplets or raindrops, scattered across the bottom.

# Overview

- Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (OGWDW) incorporating more flexibility into new/revised drinking water compliance monitoring methods
- OGWDW collaborates with ORD-, Regional-, commercial-, and utility laboratories; voluntary consensus standard bodies (such as ASTM International and Standard Methods); instrument manufacturers, and universities to develop and evaluate analytical methods.
- For drinking water method modifications that go beyond the flexibility of the approved method, or for new methods, OGWDW conducts evaluations under the SDWA Alternate Test Procedures (ATP) program.

# Overview (cont'd)

- OGWDW developed and implemented an “Expedited Method Approval” approach for drinking water test methods. New approach does not require rulemaking, and provides much faster approval of new measurement techniques, creating greater flexibility in the selection of analytical methods.
- OGWDW addresses method-related direct inquiries, as well referrals from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/hotline> (1-800-426-4791).

# Expedited Method Approval

- Federal Register Notice of April 2007 outlined process/solicited comments
- June 2008 FRN – finalized process and approved first group of (99) methods using the new process:
  - 85 associated with updated publications from voluntary consensus standard bodies (VCSBs)
  - 14 new/modified methods
    - 12 updated methods from VCSBs
    - 1 updated EPA method (Method 200.5)
    - 1 vendor-developed method

# Expedited Method Approval (cont'd)

- August 2009 FRN – approved 6 new/updated methods:
  - 1 EPA method (524.3)
  - 5 vendor-developed methods
- November 2009 FRN – approved 25 new/updated methods:
  - 4 EPA methods
    - Method 334.0
    - Method 302.0
    - Method 557
    - Method 415.3
  - 18 VCSB methods
  - 3 vendor-developed methods