



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

DEC 18 2003

OFFICE OF
WATER

Phil-M. Germansderfer
Fluid Management Systems, Inc.
56-58 Felton Street
Waltham, MA 02453

Dear Mr. Germansderfer:

EPA has reviewed the data you submitted on the Fluid Management Systems, Inc. (FMS) automated PowerPrep cleanup system, which offers an automated alternative to the manual cleanup specified in EPA Method 1613B. Generally, the ATP program evaluates only methods, not specific pieces of equipment. However, due to ambiguities as to whether the FMS system fell within the inherent flexibility of the method, EPA agreed to provide this evaluation.

The data suggest that the PowerPrep system, when using the same chemistry and absorbent materials used in the manual procedure,¹ can provide comparable performance to the manual cleanup. We are also aware that the FMS system has been used in Region 7 with success for a number of years.

The use of the PowerPrep system would be acceptable for wastewater compliance monitoring whenever analysts can meet the requirements outlined in Section 9.1.2 of Method 1613B and achieve MDLs that satisfy regulatory monitoring requirements (i.e., MDLs less than or equal to one-third the regulatory limit or the MDL in the method, whichever is higher). Given the advantages to automating a laborious manual cleanup, and the equivalency demonstrated by the submitted data, we expect many analysts to take advantage of the FMS technology.

We appreciate your continued interest in environmental monitoring. If you have any questions regarding this letter or other issues, please contact me at 202-260-1061 at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. Telliard".

William Telliard
Director of Analytical Methods
Engineering and Analysis Division (4304T)

¹ The PowerPrep clean-up as validated included a) a 'Jumbo Acid' silica gel column, b) a multilayered silica gel column, c) an alumina column, and d) a carbon/celite column, and used the standard PowerPrep configuration and elution program.