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STANDING COMMITTEE OF ANALYSTS

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changing... tackling... protecting... reducing...
create a better place... influencing... inspiring.
advising... managing... adapting...

Report of the activities of the
Standing Committee of Analysts
between 1/7/2009 - 30/6/2010

Standing Committee of Analysts

This is the fifth year I have been privileged to provide an introduction to the annual report, and to express my thanks to all the members of the SCA, whose diligent and hard work to the highest professional standard ensures that the SCA continues to be recognised nationally and internationally for the high quality of its published methods, reviews and guidance relating to the sampling and analysis of water and associated materials. Thanks are also due to those employers who have freely donated the time of their staff to allow them to carry out this vital work. I have again been privileged to work with the Secretary, other Main Committee members and members of the Working Groups who continue to produce new and revised methods of the highest quality. I know they all find their contribution to our essential work rewarding and their efforts are much appreciated by the analytical community, not just nationally but world wide.

Once again my thanks to all who have contributed throughout the year to the work of the SCA. I know that their efforts are appreciated by all in the environmental scientific community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Malcolm Morgan', with a long, sweeping underline.

Malcolm Morgan
Chairman (Main Committee)

Report of the activities of the Standing Committee of Analysts over the period 1/7/2009 to 30/6/2010

This short report provides information of the work of the Standing Committee of Analysts (SCA) carried out between 1/7/2009 and 30/6/2010. SCA is the major source of authoritative guidance on best UK analytical practice for the sampling and analysis of environmental matrices. This guidance is produced in the form of blue books published within the series "Methods for the Examination of Waters and Associated Materials" (MEWAM). Whilst original blue books can still be provided, new documents are now published and made freely available, in electronic format, on the Agency's web-site (www.environment-agency.gov.uk/nls) as downloadable drafts, i.e. PDF files.

When a new blue book document is published which is based on a previously published document, details are provided on the webpage relating to which previously published document is to be replaced, updated or amended. The document that is being replaced is now deleted from the downloadable list, but is identified as being replaced by a more recent document. In addition, these details are included in the index of documents that is updated every time a new blue book document is published. This index also contains information on which blue book documents the Agency still retains original copies that are available free of charge to users as and when requested. The newly published document also contains details of the previously published document that is being replaced, updated or amended as appropriate. Newly published blue book documents will now contain a statement indicating that users should check the current status of the document, so as to ensure that users are aware of the most recent published version.

Copyright of the SCA blue book documents resides with the sponsoring organisation responsible for managing SCA.

If you believe you can contribute to and participate in the work of SCA and wish to get involved in the development and drafting of these documents, or have any suggestions for topics that you believe the SCA should consider, please contact the Secretary, Dr David Westwood. Contact details are given at the end of this section. Also, if you consider that previous SCA documents should be reviewed, revised or updated, please contact the Secretary with an indication of your willingness to participate. Details of the activities being considered within SCA are given on the web-site under the section "Documents currently under development within SCA". In addition, the terms of reference and charter of SCA can also be found on the web-site. If you wish to receive advance notice of forthcoming SCA publications then please contact the Secretary.

The Working Groups and information on their respective areas of interest are

Working Group 2 - Microbiological methods
Working Group 5 - Inorganic and physical methods
Working Group 6 - Organic methods
Working Group 8 - Inhibition and biodegradation
Working Group 9 - Radiochemical methods

This report sets out the activities undertaken within SCA between 1 July 2009 and 30 June 2010. It gives details of the meetings that have been held (see Appendix 1) and the drafts that have been published (see Appendix 2). In Appendix 3, the names of the

individuals (and their respective organisations) who have attended meetings and contributed and supported SCA are also given.

During the year two long standing members of the main committee, Roger Wellings and Huw James, retired. Grateful acknowledgement towards both members was expressed by the main committee for all their support of SCA and contributions over the years, and to wish them both a long and happy retirement. In addition, the committee received the sad news of the death of Harry Painter, probably the longest serving member of SCA. Those who knew Harry will not need reminding that he was an enthusiastic and exceptionally knowledgeable contributor from the inception of the SCA, both as a main committee and working group member and, until recently, a working group chairman. Main committee members acknowledged the tremendous help and assistance provided by Harry over many years' service towards SCA. The main committee's condolences were sent to Harry's family and all members were grateful for Harry's unique contribution. It will be very difficult to fill the gaps left by Roger, Huw and Harry.

Appendix 1 shows the SCA meetings that have been held at Agency offices or, as otherwise stated on premises provided by participating organisations. Grateful thanks are offered to these organisations for enabling these facilities to be used and providing hospitality for members attending the meetings.

Appendix 2 lists the seven publications that have been published on the Agency's web-site (www.environment-agency.gov.uk/nls) between 1/7/2009 and 30/6/2010.

Details of drafts currently being produced within SCA and their state of development are also included in Appendix 2.

Appendix 3 lists the individuals (with details of their respective organisations where applicable) participating in SCA meetings and discussions between 1/7/2009 and 30/6/2010. This list may not necessarily represent the full membership of the committee, as on occasions, not all members can attend meetings. Named individuals have attended at least one meeting. Many members have attended more than one meeting. Without the good will and support given by these individuals and their respective organisations SCA would not be able to continue and produce the highly valued and respected blue book methods. Contributions and support given by corresponding members who have not been able to attend all the respective meetings are also gratefully acknowledged.

The Secretary attended all meetings, except one, and acted as chairman for several committees where the appointment of a permanent chairman is still outstanding.

Between 1/7/2009 and 30/6/2010, a total of 44 requests were received from the UK and 98 blue books despatched. In addition, 7 requests were received overseas (from Australia, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Sri Lanka and the USA) and 66 blue books despatched. A further 12 enquiries, where technical advice and information was sought on blue book methodologies, were received and appropriate responses provided. The number of copies of documents provided (as downloadable electronic files) via the web-site is not known, as this information is not collated. Similarly, data on the type of person, organisation or workplace of those requesting information or documents is not collated. Following a revamp of the Agency's website, between 1/7/2009 - 30/6/2010, a total of 7582 "hits" have been registered on the SCA's (i.e. <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/nls>) webpage.

The 2007 index of SCA documents and their contents is now updated after every publication and is available electronically from the Secretary.

For any further information, please contact the Secretary.

August 2010

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Appendix 1 SCA meetings held between 1/7/2009 and 30/6/2010

Taste and Odour	21/8/2009, 23/11/2009, 12/2/2010, 14/5/2010, 25/6/2010
Biological sampling	20/1/2010 (DWI), 21/4/2010 (DWI)
Main Committee	28/9/2009, 24/02/2010
Cyanide in soils	26/5/2010
TPH in soils	8/7/2009 (Energy Institute) 09/11/2009 (Energy Institute)
Working Group 2	16/11/2009, 20/5/2010 (DWI)
Cryptosporidium	23/4/2010
MoDW-3	19/10/2009
Working Group 8	10/11/2009
Working Group 9	23/9/2009

Further meetings are currently planned for the following committees and include

Biological sampling	8/7/2010 (DWI), 18/10/2010
TPH in soils	17/9/2010
Cyanide in soils	7/9/2010
MoDW-3	14/7/2010, 10/11/2010
Main committee	24/02/2011
Working group 2	19/11/2010
Working group 5	TBA
Working group 6	TBA
Working group 8	27/10/2010
Working group 9	23/9/2010

Appendix 2 Published documents between 1/7/2009 and 30/6/2010

The following documents within the SCA series “Methods for the Examination of Waters and Associated Materials” have been published on the Agency’s internet web-site (www.environment-agency.gov.uk/nls) between the period 1/7/2009 and 30/6/2010. These documents are available free of charge as down-loadable PDFs.

- 226 The determination of metaldehyde in waters and associate materials using chromatography with mass spectrometric detection (2009)
- 227 The determination of acrylamide in waters and associate materials using chromatography with mass spectrometric detection (2009)
- 228 The determination of easily liberated sulphide in soils and similar matrices (2010)
- 229 The Microbiology of Drinking Water (2010) - Part 5 - The isolation and enumeration of enterococci by membrane filtration
- 230 The Microbiology of Drinking Water (2010) - Part 6 - Methods for the isolation and enumeration of sulphite-reducing clostridia and *Clostridium perfringens* by membrane filtration
- 231 The Microbiology of Drinking Water (2010) - Part 8 - Methods for the isolation and enumeration of *Aeromonas* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* by membrane filtration
- 232 The Microbiology of Drinking Water (2010) - Part 2 - Practices and procedures for sampling

The following drafts are available and are almost ready for publication:

- The determination of tastes and odours in drinking waters (2010)
- Microbiology of Drinking Water (2010) - Part 7 - Methods for the enumeration of heterotrophic bacteria (currently undergoing revision)
- Microbiology of Drinking Water (2010) - Part 14 - Methods for the isolation, identification and enumeration of *Cryptosporidium* oocysts and *Giardia* cysts

Advanced drafts of the following documents are available and, within the next six to nine months, it is anticipated that these drafts will be finalised and published on the Agency’s web-site, (www.environment-agency.gov.uk/nls):

- The Microbiology of Sewage Sludge - Part 3 - Methods for the isolation and enumeration of *Escherichia coli*, including verocytotoxigenic *Escherichia coli*
- The determination of hydrocarbon compounds in soil (several methods are being developed for different carbon ranges)
- The determination of cyanide in soils

Drafts in various other stages of development are in preparation for:

- The Microbiology of Recreational and Environmental Waters - numerous parts are being developed
- Microbiology of Water and Associated Materials - Practices and procedures for laboratories (The Microbiology of Drinking Water - Part 3 is currently undergoing revision to include drinking waters, sewage sludges and recreational and environmental waters)
- Methods of biological sampling - Sampling macro-invertebrates in water supply systems
- The determination of *Legionella* bacteria in water and other environmental samples - Part 2 - Methods for their detection and enumeration

Further development continues in other areas and additional details can be found on the Agency's web-site under the section "Documents currently under development within SCA".

**Appendix 3 Names of individuals attending SCA meetings between
1/7/2009 and 30/6/2010**

Committee	SCA member	Organisation
Main Committee	Simon Cole	WG2 Chairman
	Huw James	WRc
	Steve Kippin	LGC
	Simon Gillespie	Scottish Water
	Robin Law	CEFAS
	Malcolm Morgan (Chairman)	Drinking Water Inspectorate
	Sue Owen	Water UK
	David Sartory	SWM Consulting
	Roger Wellings	BSI
	Tim White	SCI/CIA
	Peter Whittle	WG6 Chairman
Taste and Odour	Sue Clancy	STS Analytical Services
	Kim Holt	South West Water
	Neil Hudson	South East Water
	Richard Lawson	Wessex Water
	Jonathan Mace	Alcontrol
	Nigel Roddam	Northumbrian Water Scientific Services
	Jim Robinson	Alcontrol
	Keith Smith	Drinking Water Inspectorate
	Peter Whittle	WG6 Chairman
Biological sampling	Lindsey Aylen Smith	Essex & Suffolk Water
	Laura Moss	Drinking Water Inspectorate
	Helen Pickett	Severn Trent Water
	Jonty Stead	Portsmouth Water
	Leon Stone	Anglian Water
	Samantha Vince (Chairman)	Drinking Water Inspectorate
TPH in soils	Ian Barnabas	NWL
	Russell Gibbs	WSP Group
	Richard Glendinning	STS Analytical Services
	Darrell Hall	Chemtest
	Gordon Lethbridge	Shell
	Rob Monk	Chemtest
	Antonio Provenzano	AWE
	Natham Read	Chemex
	David Smith	SAL
	Kathleen Thompson	Environment Agency (NLS)
MoDW-3	Simon Cole (Chairman)	Wessex Water
	Phil Holmes	Severn Trent Water
	Pervinder Johal	STS Analytical Services
	Shaun Jones	Drinking Water Inspectorate
	Robert Morley	Health Protection Agency
	John V Lee	Health Protection Agency
	David Sartory	SWM Consulting

Working group 2 Microbiology	Bob Barrell Steve Bullock Peter Boyd Simon Cole (Chairman) David Gaskell Pervinder Johal Ashley Jonas Shaun Jones Howard Hawkins Phil Holmes John V Lee Robert Morley Kay Moule Martin Reeve David Sartory Helen Shapland Richard Stott Samantha Vince Phil Walker Martin Walters John Watkins Carol Weatherley Neil Whitehead Kevin Woolnough	Manchester University Thames Water Health Protection Agency (Newcastle) Wessex Water United Utilities STS Analytical Services Eurofins Drinking Water Inspectorate Veolia Water Severn Trent Water Health Protection Agency Health Protection Agency Northern Ireland Water UKAS SWM Consulting Wessex Water Northumbrian Water Scientific Services Drinking Water Inspectorate Active Biological Consulting Environment Agency (NLS) CREH Analytical Dwr Cymru Welsh Water Yorkshire Water Eurofins
<i>Cryptosporidium</i>	Rachel Chalmers Simon Cole Howard Hawkins David Sartory Phil Walker John Watkins	Health Protection Agency Wessex Water Veolia Water SWM Consulting Active Biological Consulting CREH <i>Analytical</i>
Cyanide in Soils	David Fitzpatrick Ian Forber Keith Jones Liz Hawkins Marco Luttughi Jonathan Mace Andy Peirce	Alcontrol Laboratories Alcontrol Laboratories Chemtest Chemex RPS Mountainheath Laboratories STS Analytical Services Scientifics
Working group 8 Biodegradation and Inhibition	Ann Colley Maggie Daniel Robert Dickinson Chris Mead (Chairman) Kirit Wadhia	Astra Zeneca Huntingdon Life Science Harlan Laboratories Alcontrol Laboratories
Working group 9 Radiochemical	Gary Bird Tim Brooks Chris Dale Phillipa Frewin Derek Hammond	LGC South West Water AMEC Nuclear UK Limited South West Water Health Protection Agency

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