

To: Steve Butkus
From: Scott McReynolds <scottmc@water.ca.gov>
Subject: Oroville Relicensing Fish tissue data QA/QC
Date: 4/14/09 9:02AM

Steve,

In response to your inquiry, let me begin with an explanation regarding the July 2007 report written by my former supervisor, Jerry Boles. While I was the field lead for this project, Jerry did the planning and analysis and write-up. Needless to say, Jerry did not include sufficient documentation of our QA/QC protocols with the report.

In response to your first question, West Coast Analytical Services, Inc. performed the laboratory analysis of ALL of the tissue samples collected from Dwinnell for this study. The reason we had to use three different labs during the study leading up to this report was the unfortunate fate of our contracts to use private sector laboratories which were in flux with one contract expiring and the need to set up new contracts over the two year study period.

In response to your second question, the fish collection in this study followed the SWAMP Draft QAPP which was the 1997 or 1998 version (I only had a hard copy of this document at the time and I cannot find it in my office today). In this version of the QAPP, an acceptable method of field preservation for fish tissue samples was to wrap the individual fish in aluminum foil with the dull side of the foil against the fish's body, and sealed in a plastic bag. The fish was then placed on dry ice until it could be transferred to our office freezer until shipped to the laboratory performing the analysis. This is the same protocol we used for the Oroville Facilities Relicensing study we conducted from 2002-2004, (see message from Janis Cooke below).

Since the laboratory was going to perform the dissection of muscle tissue for digestion and compositing for analysis in CLEAN_ROOM conditions, the muscle tissue was not contaminated by the foil (protected by the fish's skin).

I have attached our Monitoring Plan (No mention of QA/QC), final Hg results received from West Coast Analytical Services, Inc., which was a subbed-out lab by our contract laboratory manager at Cal-Test, field sample preparation protocol, as well as the individual fish data that made up the composites from Dwinnell Reservoir (Shastina).

I hope this gives you sufficient information to complete your task-at-hand. If you have need of further clarification regarding my response to your request, please contact me at (530)529-7304 or by e-mail.

Thanks,
Scott McReynolds