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Subject: Cabot QAPP: Groundwater Reporting Limits
Date: Thursday, February 26, 2015 4:24:41 PM
Attachments: [SVOC_RLs_comp_table.pdf](#)

All:

In an effort to address concerns raised by the group regarding the high reporting limits for SVOCs in groundwater presented in Appendix B of the Cabot Carbon QAPP, we reached out to Test America and discussed this issue at length with them. The lab is not willing to run undiluted analyses of highly impacted samples, but they can meet low reporting limits in samples with low concentrations. Thus, we have developed the following approach that will provide data that meet the project's data quality objectives, while accommodating the constraints posed by site conditions:

- The lab will use a Low-Level 8270D method to analyze relatively low-impact samples (i.e., from surficial aquifer wells, peripheral wells, etc.) for SVOCs and achieve low reporting limits.
- Samples with high concentrations and/or matrix interference issues (e.g., source area HG groundwater samples) will be analyzed using the standard 8270D method. In addition, the lab will dilute these samples since they are not willing to perform undiluted analyses with these highly impacted samples, and risk instrument damage and severe disruption to lab operations. They will utilize a few different dilutions determined based on prior experience at the site. Thus, the SVOC detection limits for impacted samples will in all likelihood be higher than the reporting limits for the standard method. Once a remedy has been implemented in the Hawthorn deposits and concentrations in the groundwater plume decline, lower reporting limits will be achieved in these samples.
- We will clearly specify in every Work Plan and Chain of Custody whether the Low Level or standard method for SVOCs will be used for each groundwater sample.

The attached table provides a comparison of the two sets of SVOC reporting limits (i.e., for the Low-Level 8270 method and the standard 8270 method). The text in the QAPP will be revised to explain this approach, and both sets of reporting limits, MDLs and QC control limits for SVOCs will be included in Appendix B of the QAPP.

We would like to reiterate that have come to this resolution after extensive discussions with the lab and the proposed approach is the most pragmatic one that will provide the data needed to make remedial decisions and monitoring remedy progression. Please feel free to give me a call if you would like to discuss this further. We will be issuing the revised QAPP by March 6.

Regards,

Manu

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