

# MEMORANDUM

## State Water Control Board

2111 North Hamilton Street

P. O. Box 11143

Richmond, VA. 23230

**SUBJECT:** OWRM Guidance Memo No. 91-007  
Sample Volumes for Nonmetals Lab

**TO:** Regional Office Directors 

**FROM:** Larry Lawson

**DATE:** February 20, 1991

**COPY:** Alan Anthony, Ron Gregory, Camille Cook, Charlie Morgan,  
Al Pollock, Martin Ferguson, Fred Cunningham, Don Richwine,  
and W. L. Woodfin

Due to recent problems with the analysis of cyanide, Bob Potts of the nonmetals lab at DCLS has requested that we send in 3/4 to 1 gallon of sample for cyanide analysis until further notice. He has discovered that several samples had a pink discoloration and when these samples were spiked only 30% recovery has been achieved. If any regional office has received a notation regarding the poor spike recovery on the lab sheet, and if your staff hasn't already done so, please have them contact Camille Cook so we might determine similarities, if any, in the samples. Bob Potts would like to perform further analyses on samples with this phenomena but this requires more sample volume. Please advise the appropriate staff to submit a one-gallon cubitainer for cyanide analysis until further notice.

Also, Mr. Potts has requested more sample volume for the analysis of TSS, BOD, etc. combined. He would like to have one liter of sample for BOD or TSS individually, so if you need both parameters or more, please send 3/4 to one gallon sample in a gallon cubitainer.

Any questions regarding either of these topics should be directed to Camille Cook.

CC913:bw