

April 5, 2000

To: Water Resources Division

From: Peter F. Rogerson, Senior Chemist
Office of Water Quality

For: LeRoy Schroder, Chief
Branch of Quality Systems

Subject: Approval of a Water Quality Analytical Method for the Determination of Ammonium Plus Organic Nitrogen by Kjeldahl Digestion and Automated Photometry

The Office of Water Quality has approved a water-quality analytical method by the National Water Quality laboratory (NWQL) for the determination of ammonium plus organic nitrogen (Kjeldahl nitrogen) in both filtered and whole water samples. This water-quality analytical methods approval follows the technical procedure specified in OWQ Tech Memo 98.05. The draft OFR, which will be submitted for Director's approval, is entitled:

"Methods of Analysis by the U.S. Geological Survey National Water Quality laboratory—Determination of Ammonium Plus Organic Nitrogen by a Kjeldahl Digestion Method and an Automated Photometric Finish that Includes Digest Cleanup by Gas Diffusion" by Charles J. Patton and Earl P. Truitt.

This OFR describes U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) methods I-2515/4515-91, which is U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) method 351.2 with no substantial changes. The two methods use the same digestion and the same photometric determination, differing only in minor details of implementation and the addition of a continuous-flow digest cleanup step in the USGS method. The OFR is being published to document the method precision and accuracy, and to fully describe USGS implementation of the USEPA method 351.2. Because this method is similar to the approved USEPA method 351.2, all data from this method are approved according to Office of Water Quality Technical Memorandum 98.05.

For current information on method reporting limits and method codes, please consult the NWQL on-line catalog at: http://wwwnwql.cr.usgs.gov/USGS/USGS_gen.html . If you have questions or need more information about the methods approval process, please contact Pete Rogerson (rogerson@usgs.gov), (303) 236-1836.