



Office of Water Quality Water-Quality Information Note 2004.11

Subject: Quality Assurance—Organic Blind Sample Program time series charts

The purpose of this Note is to announce the availability of time-series charts for the Organic Blind Sample Project (OBSP) of the Branch of Quality Systems (BQS). The OBSP assesses the operational performance of 16 organic analytical methods at the USGS National Water Quality Laboratory (NWQL). Time-series charts that show percent recoveries of the blind quality-assurance (QA) samples for every analyte for every analytical method that OBSP reviews have been posted on the OBSP web page at: http://bqs.usgs.gov/OBSP/cumulative_ts_charts.html

The time-series charts are new and are part of a redesign of the OBSP. These charts show the recoveries for the blind QA samples over time and are used to evaluate method performance over time. Variations in method performance will most likely be reflected in the environmental samples analyzed with this method, so the charts should provide valuable information to projects that are interpreting organic analytical data. A 'Cumulative Summary Report' that describes the changes in method performance for the period of record for the available OBSP data has also been posted on the OBSP web page at <http://bqs.usgs.gov/OBSP/rp.html>. This report will be updated annually. On a quarterly basis, the OBSP will update the time-series charts to include the most recent data and provide a Quarterly Report that will document only the most recent changes in the blind QA results.

The redesign of the OBSP is a work in progress. Additional changes and new products that the OBSP will be working on when the time-series charts and associated reports are completed are listed at: <http://bqs.usgs.gov/OBSP/changes.html>

If you have any questions, please contact:

Suranne Horodyski, 303-236-1821, or email: stineman@usgs.gov
Delicia Beaty, 303-236-1817 or email: dbeaty@usgs.gov

If this Note was forwarded to you and you'd like to have your name placed on the WaQI Notes distribution, please send email to nlsnow@usgs.gov.

WaQI Notes are archived on the Office of Water Quality web site, <http://water.usgs.gov/usgs/owq/WaQI/index.html>