



October 1, 2007

Office of Water Quality Water-Quality Information Note 2008.01 (corrected)

Subject: Field Methods—Inorganic blank water contamination

The purpose of this Note is to advise field personnel that the latest lot of inorganic blank water (Ricca lot no. 1709365; NWIS lot no. 80703) received by the National Field Supply Service (NFSS) has been found to contain detectable levels of boron and silica. The concentration of boron in the quality-control samples was about 21.5 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (Laboratory Reporting Level 1.8 $\mu\text{g/L}$) and the concentration of silica was about 0.035 mg/L (Laboratory Reporting Level 0.02 mg/L). These results were confirmed by independent tests done by Ricca Chemical Company. The certificate of analysis for this lot will be posted at <http://wwwnwql.cr.usgs.gov/USGS/IBW/ibw.html> as soon as possible.

The following notice will be placed on all inorganic blank water bottles from the affected lot:

Notice
This water contains boron (~20 $\mu\text{g/L}$)
and silica (~0.035 mg/L)
Lot #1709365 / NWIS 80703

The NFSS accepted part of this lot of water because they are currently in a back-order situation. A new lot of water is in the process of being manufactured by Ricca Chemical with shipment to the NFSS expected late next week. Once the new lot is quality assured, it will be available for sale. If you are involved in a project for which boron and/or silica are important, you may want to hold off on ordering inorganic blank water. We will inform the field when the new water is available for sale.

Please contact the NFSS (nfss@usgs.gov) if you have any questions or concerns. The NFSS remains committed to supplying the highest known quality product at the most economical price to their customers.

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>