



# State of Louisiana

## Department of Environmental Quality



M.J. "MIKE" FOSTER, JR.  
GOVERNOR

February 27, 2002

J. DALE GIVENS  
SECRETARY

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: J. Dale Givens, Secretary *JDG*

SUBJECT: Solids Sampling for Volatile Organic Compounds

As many of you are already aware, on June 13, 1997, the United States Environmental Protection Agency adopted Method 5035 for the sampling of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in solids. Solids include soil, sediment, solid waste, and other solid materials. This new method was adopted in the Third Edition revisions of SW-846. While implementation of Method 5035 posed problems in many States initially, this Method can now be implemented without undue technologic or economic burden.

Method 5035 was adopted because of studies showing that sampling by previous methods resulted in significant losses of selected VOCs, as high as orders of magnitude. Method 5035 incorporates chemical preservatives and sample storage techniques to limit volatilization and biodegradation of VOC's.

**The Department of Environmental Quality will not accept VOC data generated from solids samples that are collected on or after July 1, 2002, if the samples are not collected and handled in accordance with Method 5035.** However, the exclusive use of Method 5035 shall not apply to sites granted No Further Remedial Action At This Time (NFA-ATT) status by DEQ prior to July 1, 2002, except as deemed by the Department to be necessary to protect human health or the environment. The sampling methodology used to evaluate sites prior to receiving NFA will be used, as needed, to verify that site concentrations continue to meet the closure standard on sites receiving NFA status prior to July 1, 2002.

SW-846, which contains the new Method 5035, can be found on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/test/sw846.htm>, and is also available for review in the Public Document Viewing Room at the Department headquarters at 7290 Bluebonnet Road, Baton Rouge, LA. Also, this memorandum and additional information regarding the new method can be found at our website at <http://www.deq.state.la.us/laboratory/index.htm>.

If you have further questions regarding this issue, please contact the Office of Environmental Assessment at (225) 765-0355. Thank you for your cooperation.

