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**SAMPLING AT THE FEDERAL CENTER-CH2M-HILL** is under contract with the General Services Administration (GSA) to drill some 200 monitoring wells for water and soil samples at the Denver Federal Center (DFC). The sampling is mandated by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. The GSA Region VIII signed a consent order in 1997 to investigate contaminated areas and clean up the sites. The DFC was used as an ordnance plant during World War II. The drilling rig is immediately west of the USGS National Water Quality Laboratory.

### **District action required for applying corrections to data base**

Corrections (reloads) to previously transmitted NWQL data are not automatic with the implementation of NWIS 4-1 (National Water Information System, version 4-1). It is no longer possible for the NWQL to correct data for historic samples and automatically load the data into the District NWIS systems because codes have been added for the Data Quality Indicator. District data managers must reload all data and notify the NWQL when the reloads are completed.

The NWQL tracked data reloads in four Districts in the past year and found that implementation by Districts was sporadic. As a result, the NWQL will start a tracking process that displays pending reloads on the web. After the District completes a reload, it must notify the NWQL at [LabHelp@usgs.gov](mailto:LabHelp@usgs.gov) so that we can update our tracking system. District completion status eventually will be posted on a web page and the launch date announced at URL <http://wwwnwql.cr.usgs.gov/USGS/>.

- Gary Cottrell

## Perfect score earned by Organic Section for performance study

The New York State Department of Health's (NYSDOH) 4th quarter performance-evaluation study awarded high marks to the NWQL. Performance is listed in the accompanying table.

These potable water studies have replaced the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency water-supply studies. The NYSDOH study is required for the NWQL to be accredited by the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference (NELAC) and for accreditation by the State of Colorado for the majority of Colorado's primary drinking-water constituents. Results of the study are posted at <http://nwql.usgs.gov/Public/Performance/publicnyfall2002.html>.

Constituents	Number Analyzed	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total satisfactory (percent)
Inorganic	13	10	3*	76.9
Organic	47	47	0	100
Total	60	57	3	95.0

\*No result was submitted for nickel in this evaluation because the NWQL is seeking accreditation for nickel by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) method 200.9, rather than USEPA method 200.7. The NWQL received an "unsatisfactory" score for nickel because the value was not reported.



**TANK CHANGEOVER-**  
A new contract was awarded for bulk gases last December. The changeover for new bulk nitrogen and argon tanks was completed in January.

## Leenheer credited with *ES& T* cover article

Jerry Leenheer, hydrologist with the Branch of Regional Research in Denver, wrote the feature article for the scientific journal *Environmental Science & Technology*, in its January 1, 2003, issue.

The monthly feature article is an overview of a particular aspect of environmental science. The journal used Leenheer's photo of the Okefenokee Swamp, taken on a USGS field trip, on the full-color front cover of the issue.

The article, co-written with Jean-Philippe Crone, from Poitiers, France, was titled "Characterizing Aquatic Dissolved Organic Matter," and presented an overview of research into natural organic matter and its relevance to treatment of drinking water.

- Colleen Rostad

## UPGRADING INSTRUMENTS



Chemists in the Metals Unit are pleased to get hands-on training on two new inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometers (ICPOES). The Perkin-Elmer Optima 4300 ICPs replace four old instruments. Chase Davis (seated left) and Patricia Pavelich were among unit staffers who received training recently from Randy Hergenreder, P-E applications chemist. The total cost of the two ICPs is about \$170,000. The new instruments are expected to improve overall data quality and provide increased efficiency and sample throughput.

## Reports, articles published by Laboratory authors (NWQL authors in boldface)

### REPORTS

Jha, V .K., and Wydoski, D.S., 2003, Methods of analysis by the U.S. Geological Survey National Water Quality Laboratory-Determination of organophosphate pesticides in bottom sediment by gas chromatography with flame photometric detection: U.S. Geological Survey Water-Resources Investigations Report 02-4222, 30 p.

Madsen, J.E., Sandstrom, M.W., and Zaugg, S.D., 2003, Methods of analysis by the U.S. Geological Survey National Water Quality Laboratory-A method supplement for the determination of fipronil and degradates in water by gas chromatography/mass spectrometry: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 02-462, 11 p.

### JOURNAL ARTICLES

Bednar, A.J., Garbarino, J.R., Ferrer, Imma, Rutherford, D.W., Wershaw, R.L., Ranville, J.F., and Wildeman, T.R., 2003, Photodegradation of roxarsone in poultry litter leachates: The Science of the Total Environment, Elsevier, v. 302, p. 237-245

Boyd, R.A., and **Furlong, E.T.**, 2002, Human-health pharmaceutical compounds in Lake Mead, Nevada and Arizona, and Las Vegas Wash, Nevada, October 2000-August 2001: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 02-385

Thurman, E.M., Ferrer, Imma, and Parry, Rick, 2002, Accurate mass analysis of ethanesulfonic acid degradates of acetochlor and alachlor using high-performance liquid chromatography and time-of-flight mass spectrometry: *Journal of Chromatography A*, Elsevier, v. 957, p.3-9

*Note: Copies of these publications are available from NWQL by contacting Diana Rime by e-mail [dcrime@usgs.gov](mailto:dcrime@usgs.gov) or by telephone (303-236-3714).*

### **Ethics coordinator named by QA chief**

Jeanne Hatcher, physical science technician in the Quality Assurance (QA) Section, has been named NWQL ethics coordinator by Tom Maloney, QA chief. Hatcher will develop the ethics program at the Laboratory. She will develop and coordinate training for new employees, provide on-going ethics training for all employees, and develop the NWQL's ethics policy.

Hatcher also is the contact person for NWQL staff to report ethics concerns, and is the liaison with Laboratory management to ensure that ethics issues are addressed. Hatcher can be contacted by e-mail [jhatcher@usgs.gov](mailto:jhatcher@usgs.gov) or by telephone (303-236-3481).

Maloney said that an ethics program is "necessary in our constantly changing laboratory environment." In addition, he said the program is mandatory for the NWQL to maintain certification by the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference (NELAC). NELAC is a cooperative association of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, States, and other Federal agencies formed to promote mutually acceptable performance standards for the operation of environmental laboratories.

#### **A JOB WELL DONE—**

Service Awards recently were presented by NWQL Chief Greg Mohrman to six hard-working chemists and physical science technicians. Angie White (front, left to right), received a 20-year pin and Chromatography A, Elsevier, v. 957, p. certificate; receiving 10-year awards in recognition of service to the Federal Government were Debbie Hobbs and Ben Rustin; (back row) Bruce Anderson, Scott Losche, and Armin Burdick.



## NWQL seminar schedule

Jeff Pritt, NWQL, January 22: "Analytical Atomic Spectroscopy Techniques and Applications"

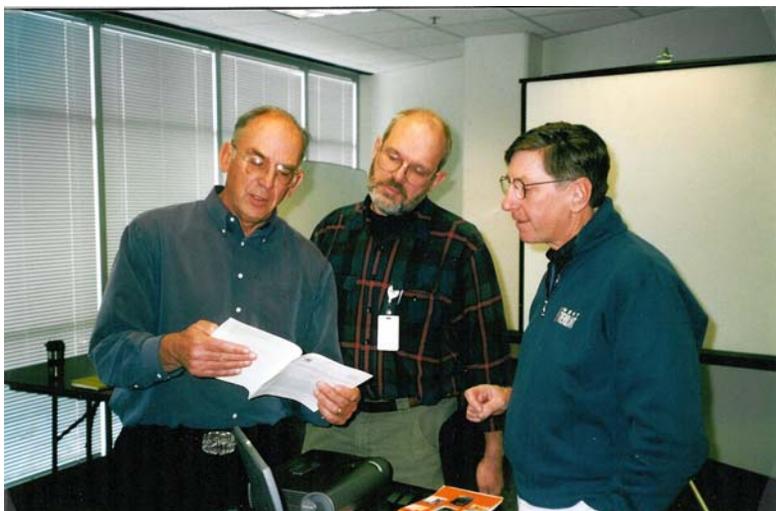
Mark Benotti, State University of New York, January 23: "HPLC-TOF-MS as a Useful Tool for the Analysis of Polar Organic Contaminants in Complex Environmental Samples"

Chad Kinney, National Research Council Postdoc, NWQL, February 11: "Agricultural and Biogeochemical Influences on the Fluxes and Isotopic Composition of Trace Gases from Colorado Grassland Soils"

Robert Eganhouse, USGS, Reston, February 13: "Stranger in a Strange Land--Experiences of an Expert Witness in the Montrose Case."

Paul Zavitstanos, Agilent Technologies, March 6: "New Instrumental Approaches to Environmental Analysis"

Robert Eganhouse, USGS, Reston, March 11: "Problems with the Reliability of Physicochemical Property Data for Hydrophobic Organic Compounds"



**THE EXPERT WITNESS**—  
Robert Eganhouse (right), research chemist in Reston, confers with Jerry Leenheer (left), Regional Research, and Edward Furlong, research chemist at NWQL, following a seminar February 13 at the Laboratory. Eganhouse summarized his experiences as an expert witness in the Montrose case, one of the largest environmental lawsuits in U.S. history.

### Newsletter Staff

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