



IN REPLY REFER TO:

# United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Box 25046 M.S. 407

Denver Federal Center

Denver, Colorado 80225

## NATIONAL WATER QUALITY LABORATORY TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM 2000.03

March 8, 2000

To: Distribution E  
From: Merle Shockey, Acting Chief  
National Water Quality Laboratory  
Subject: Changes in Minimum Reporting Levels for Suspended Solids  
Analyses at the NWQL (Lab Codes 49 and 169).

Effective date

of changes: March 7, 2000

Author: Gary Cottrell, Nutrient Unit Supervisor, NWQL  
303-236-3490; email: [cottrell](mailto:cottrell)

Revision: None

Supplemental: None

### SCOPE

This technical memorandum announces changes, effective April 1, 2000, in minimum reporting levels for the suspended solids methods at the NWQL. The new reporting levels are based on blind blank data from the 1999 water year. Blind blank data were used in place of a spiked sample because reference standards are unavailable for this method. Reporting level changes are listed in Table 1.

**TABLE 1.** Reporting level changes for suspended solids methods at the NWQL

[NWIS, National Water Information System; deg C, Degree Celsius; SUS, suspended; GR, gravimetric analysis; VOI, volatile-on-ignition]

Constituent	NWIS, Method codes *	NWQL Lab code	Minimum reporting level (Milligrams/liter)	
			Current	Effective April 1, 2000
Solids, Residue on Evaporation (ROE), 105°C, SUS, GR	00530 B	169	1	10
Solids, VOI, SUS, GR	00535 A	49	1	10

\* Letter following 5 digits represents method code.

## EFFECT ON DATA BASE

Minimum reporting level changes for the solids analyses listed in Table 1 will cause a shift in nondetection (less than) concentrations in the data base. Minimum reporting levels for historical data will not be changed in the data base. Data users should be cautious when interpreting historical data for these methods in light of new higher reporting levels. Results greater than 10 mg/L will be reported in 1-mg/L increments.

**Key words:** Reporting levels; Suspended solids; Residue on evaporation; Volatile on ignition; Lab codes 169 and 49.

**Supersedes:** None

**Distribution:** E (all WRD employees), and <http://wwwnwql.cr.usgs.gov/USGS>