



Methanol Field Preservation of Soil Samples in Atlantic Canada

Issue:

Atlantic PIRI has been working with our laboratory partners toward implementation of changes to soil sample collection and preservation methods for volatile petroleum hydrocarbons and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). These collection and preservation methods have evolved in recent years based on generally accepted practices in the United States, and provincial jurisdictions within Canada. The methodology is also a recommended practice in the new CCME Guidance Manual for Environmental Site Characterization in Support of Environmental and Human Health Risk Assessment (May 2016), which serves to update the CCME Guidance Manual on Sampling, Analysis and Data Management at Contaminated Sites, Volumes 1 and 2 (1993) (www.ccme.ca).

Statement:

Current Atlantic PIRI guidance and best management practice requires testing methods and techniques to be consistent with current day industry standards. In particular, sampling and sample handling protocols must be consistent with accepted practices. Atlantic PIRI has therefore worked with our laboratory partners to update the Atlantic RBCA Guidelines for Laboratories Tier I and Tier II Petroleum Hydrocarbon Methods reflecting this change in field sampling.

Each province adopts Atlantic PIRI RBCA guidance within guidelines or regulations either directly or indirectly as deemed appropriate. As a result, commensurate with implementation timelines, Atlantic PIRI regulatory partners will be expecting these new procedures to be adopted and implemented as standard components of field sampling programs.

Implementation:

Atlantic PIRI recognizes industry will need time to fully prepare for implementation of the new sampling protocol in relation to current projects and work. Therefore, effective September 1, 2016 these new field preservation procedures will become a recognized industry standard and will be required by provincial regulators.