

## INTRODUCTION AND PREFACE

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently in the process of debating and adopting the Performance Based Measurement System (PBMS) as a paradigm for environmental analysis. In PBMS good science is stressed. This places an extra burden on persons reviewing data as they have to be able to recognize what is good science and what is not. My attempt in this book is to describe what is good science and what is not within the context of inorganic analysis under PBMS. As such I often suggest additional quality controls beyond those specifically mentioned in the official methods.

This book is the companion to *Interpretation of Organic Data*. These are not two separate works. They are intended to be used and studied together. Although the chapter on quality control acceptance limits is largely the same in the two books, there are other places in this volume where I refer the reader to the companion work instead of simply repeating the discussion.

I have characterized this business as frequently frustrating but never boring. Every person I have ever met in this business has taught me something. The something may be positive or it may be negative, and in some cases it is accompanied by tense situations, but still my fund of knowledge grows. As always my thanks go out to my editor, Erik Roy at Genium, and all the colleagues, peers, and data reviewers with whom I interact in the environmental industry. I am not going to try to list them all, as someone might be slighted that they got overlooked. But if I have ever met you, and this includes all those who I have ever disagreed with, thanks.

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