Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Bob Martinez Center
2600 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400

Charlie Crist
Governor

Jeff Kottkamp
Lt. Governor

Michael W. Sole
Secretary

Mr. David Evans
Water and Air Research
6821 S. W. Archer Road
Gainesville, FL 32608

Dear Mr. Evans,

Thank you for allowing Julie Espy and me to inspect your invertebrate laboratory facilities and associated quality assurance records on July 27, 2007. It was demonstrated to us that all aspects of DEP SOPs LQ 7410 and LQ 7420 were being successfully implemented in your laboratory. Sorting and identification accuracy typically exceeded 95%.

Although your reference collection was quite extensive and checked internally, we noted that only approximately 20-40% of the specimens, depending on group, had been verified by an outside expert. We discussed this shortcoming, and you indicated that you would systematically work to increase the number of verified specimens, focusing first on the sensitive and very tolerant taxa presented in DEP SOP LT7200. We find this corrective action acceptable.

Also, we discussed the possibility of sending at least one invertebrate sample per quarter to you for processing and identification, and having our laboratory staff double check the results, as an ongoing quality assurance strategy. We agree with that concept, pending funding and contracting issues. In summary, we are confident that Water and Air Research has a quality system in place to help ensure that invertebrate taxonomic data are being generated with known and acceptable accuracy.

Sincerely,

Russel Frydenborg
Administrator,
Environmental Assessment Section