

WET Tip #5

Organics: To WET or Not to WET?

No WET on Organics - Solid and Nonmillable/Nonfilterable Wastes:

On solids and tarry wastes (type I and iii wastes) the WET is not necessary. Only total concentrations are analyzed.

The Rationale:

There is a ten-fold difference between the organic STLCs and TTLCs. Since there is the 10x Factor to predict the maximum WET-soluble concentrations from total concentrations, a waste that does not exceed the TTLC by its total concentration would not be expected to exceed the STLC.

Example:

Chlordane STLC = 0.25 mg/L

Chlordane TTLC = 2.5 mg/kg

If the total concentration of a chlordane in the waste is 2.0 mg/kg. The waste does not exceed the TTLC. Using the 10x Factor, the predicted maximum concentration of chlordane in the WET 0.2 mg/L, which does not exceed the STLC. The WET is not necessary.

WET on Organics – Multiphasic Waste

On waste that consists of liquids and solids (type ii) with $\geq 0.5\%$ solids, the maximum WET-soluble constituent cannot be predicted using total concentrations because there are too many variables to make any predictions. The WET is necessary on type ii wastes.

Is there another reason to WET the Organics?

Yes, another reason to perform the WET on solid and nonmillable/nonfilterable wastes (type i and iii wastes) after determining the total concentrations of organics in the wastes is due to sample variability and how close the total concentrations are to its respective TTLCs. The closer the total concentration is to the TTLC, the more critical your data analysis and statistical evaluation may become due to the possibility of errors in sampling and analysis. Performing the WET on these samples may yield more information to classify the waste appropriately. It is a best professional judgment call.