

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Air Quality Group Adds Dissolved Methane and Ethane to Accreditations

Fredericton, May 2, 2012 - RPC continues to expand its capabilities in gas analysis, recently becoming accredited for two new parameters; dissolved methane in water and dissolved ethane in water. Both parameters are potential drinking water contaminants.

The accreditation through the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) adds to RPC's comprehensive scope of accredited test parameters. A complete listing of RPC's scope is available on the [SCC website](#). Accreditation ensures that the method is performed to a recognized standard by trained personnel. Methods are regularly audited and require regular proficiency testing.

"We are already experiencing a steady demand for these services and, as concern for drinking water quality grows, we are anticipating increasing demand," noted Dr. Diane Botelho, who led the effort to research and develop the methods. Dr. Botelho is already working on new parameters to add to RPC's scope of accreditations for gas analyses.

Methane is a colourless, odourless gas and is lighter than air. Methane is not considered toxic, but it is an asphyxiant at high concentrations. Methane is extremely flammable and can be easily ignited. It occurs naturally as a result of methane producing bacteria. At standard temperature and pressure, ethane is also an odourless, colourless gas and the second largest component of natural gas.

These analyses are available through RPC's air quality group which already offers a comprehensive suite of testing including accredited mould, asbestos, medical gas, and breathing air analysis. Other air quality testing services include radon gas and urea formaldehyde foam insulation (UFFI) surveys. Visit our web site at www.rpc.ca for more information on RPC's services.



*Above:
Analyst, Bryan Bourque, prepares water samples
for methane gas analysis.*

About RPC

RPC is New Brunswick's provincial research organization (PRO), an independent contract research and development and technical services organization located in Fredericton, NB. RPC's complement of 98 scientists, engineers and technologists are supported by a 13,000 sq. meter facility housing world-class analytical chemistry and material-testing laboratories, comprehensive life science capabilities, an internationally recognized fish health lab, extensive prototype design, manufacturing and testing services, and a wide variety of pilot facilities for the development and improvement of industrial and environmental processes and products.

RPC is accredited by various organizations including the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) and is ISO 9001:2008 certified. Further information about RPC's services is available from <http://www.rpc.ca>.

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