

under sections 1401 and 1445 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). To better coordinate these efforts within the Office of Water, EPA will discuss flexibility and streamlining approaches for 304(h) and drinking water methods at these two public meetings. EPA believes the public will benefit from a joint meeting, because the flexibility and method approval issues, the regulated contaminants and the methods currently approved at Parts 136 and 141 are very similar. EPA notes,

however, that the supporting documents that are available with this notice were developed only for 304(h) methods and within the requirements of the CWA. The approaches and specifically allowing unlimited "front-end" modifications might not be appropriate for methods approved under the SDWA. In contrast to the 304(h) documentation, less front end flexibility in sample collection and work-up procedures and more flexibility in the determinative measurement steps may be appropriate

for SDWA compliance methods. Despite these potential differences in method flexibility approaches between 304(h) and SDWA methods, EPA believes there is a significant benefit in conducting public meetings on the perspectives of both programs.

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