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March 4, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Neutralization of samples from GEOTRACES project

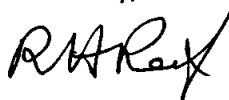
To whom it may concern,

Based on a review of the chemistry protocol that will be used by Dr. Buessler's staff during the GEOTRACES Artic cruise project, I have determined that the seawater waste effluent produced will be non-hazardous and is safe for over the side disposal at sea. Specifically, the seawater waste effluent from this protocol will meet the following WHOI-approved, sink disposal criteria: aqueous, pH 6-9, no organic solvents, no toxic chemicals, and not a regulated hazardous waste. The WHOI-approved sink disposal criteria is described in Section 4.3 of WHOI's Hazardous Waste Generator Procedure (<http://ehs.whoi.edu/ehs/envprotection/HazWasteGeneratorHW-1.pdf>).

Dr. Buessler's protocol includes a step for testing and recording the pH with a calibrated electronic pH instrument. The pH will be measured and recorded prior to disposal at sea. Dr. Buessler will ensure that these records and the subject protocol will be available for inspection during this project.

If you have any questions, please contact Steve Pike at 508-289-2350 or me at 508-289-3788.

Sincerely,



Ronald Reif, P.E.

Director of Environmental, Health & Safety