

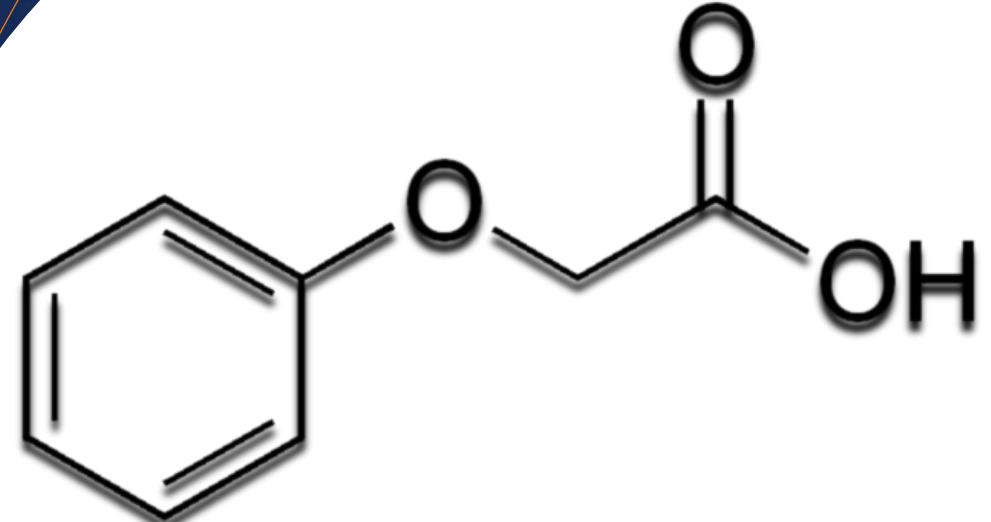
# SESSION: OPTIMIZING LABORATORY OPERATIONS

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Enhancing Resiliency and  
Sustainability in Environmental  
Labs – a Case Study for  
Herbicides Analysis

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**Chlorinated Phenoxy Herbicides**



# Why This Matters?

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- Case study addressing key workflow challenges.
- Modernization of chlorinated phenoxy herbicide analysis in soil and water

Environmental labs face increasing pressure from:



Global supply chain disruptions



Natural disasters



Instrumentation and facility constraints

# Legacy Method – EPA 8151A (GC-ECD)

- EPA 8151A ~ Rev 1, December 1996
- Hazardous reagents to perform the method
- Relies on RT and secondary column confirmation
- GC-ECD method more subject to interference
- TAT 5-10 days on average
- Complex method preparation; poor recoveries



~~Diazomethane/Diazald~~

# Why method 8321 (LC-MS/MS)



Retains 8151A target list



Greater specificity with MRM detection



Reduced sample volume and simpler prep



Safer reagents: no derivatization, no chlorinated solvents



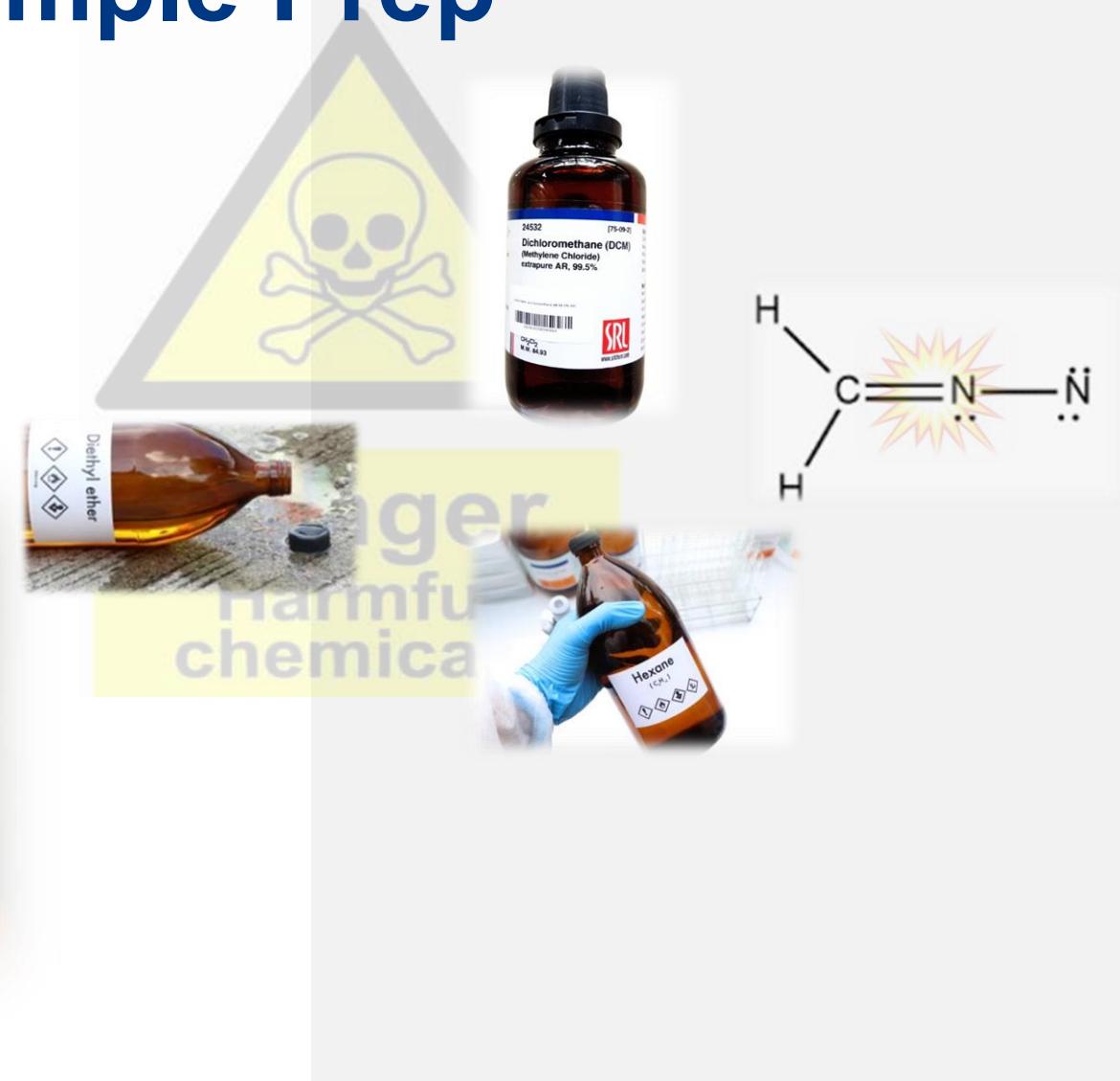
Shorter TAT without compromising sensitivity

# Greener, Streamlined Sample Prep

Elimination of  
potential harmful  
solvents and  
reagents



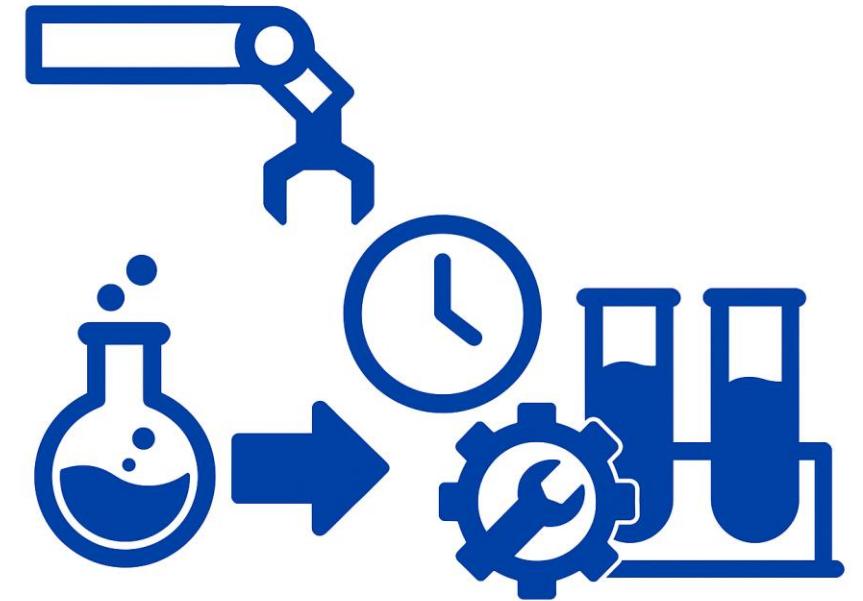
Only MeOH &  
Water are used



# Greener, Streamlined Sample Prep

## Key Advantages:

-  6x reduction in workflow time
-  No hazardous solvents: Only methanol, acetonitrile, and water
-  Increased analyst safety and simplified compliance
-  25 samples processed in 4 hours



# FAST analysis by LC-MS/MS

- Short run time (7 minutes cycle time)
  - 205 injections in 24 hours
  - MRM (Multiple Reaction Monitoring)
- LC column
  - Good for separating polar compounds
  - Stable for use in acid mobile phase (pH 2-3)
- Mobile phase (0.04% acid)
  - Acid selection (volatile)
    - Acetic acid ( $\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}$ )

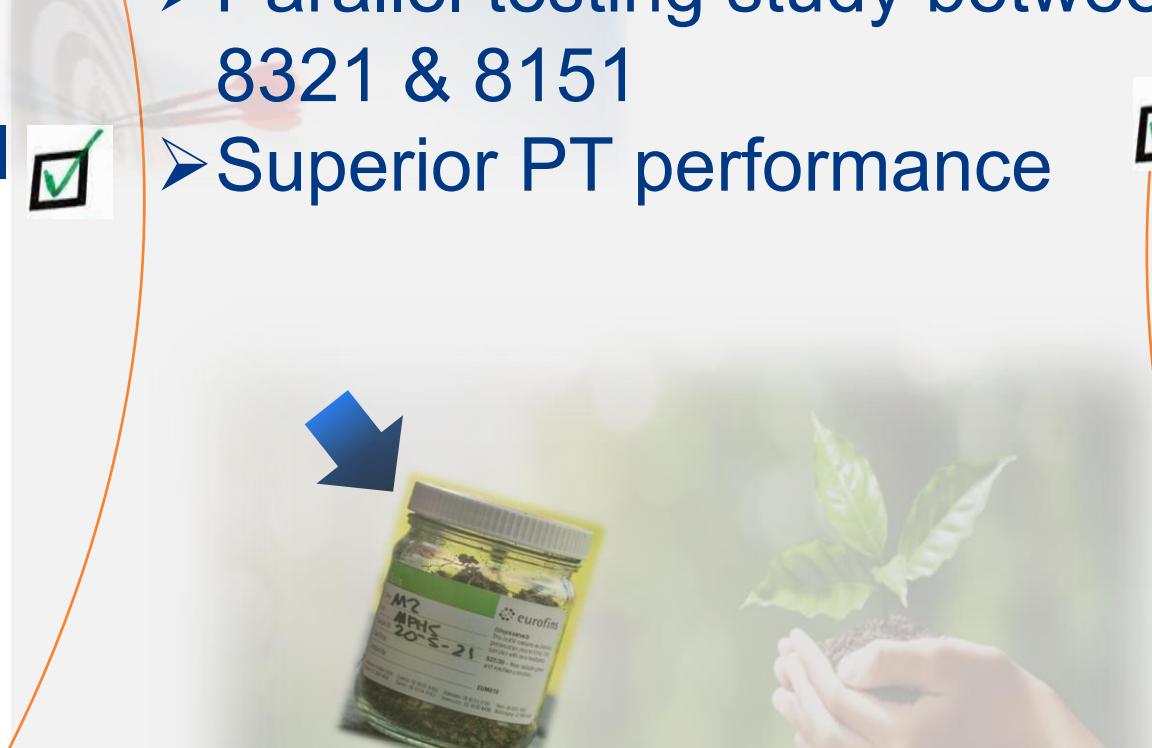


# Validation Summary

- Low level detections 
- Good recoveries 
- Accurate & Precise 
- Method designed for water & soil 



- Direct Comparison between GC Method and LC - MSMS method 
- Parallel testing study between 8321 & 8151 
- Superior PT performance 



## ➤ Superior PT performance

Herbicides in Soil		Phenova Lot#7088-18						
NELAC Analyte Code	Analyte	8321		8151		Assigned Value	Acceptance Limits	8321 Analysis Date
		Reported Value	Units	Reported value	Units			
8545	2,4-D	647	ug/Kg	156	ug/Kg	594	59.4-998	5/9/2024
8560	2,4-DB	397	ug/Kg	232	ug/Kg	363	36.3-504	5/9/2024
8555	Dalapon	<10	ug/Kg	<100	ug/Kg	<100	0.00-100	5/9/2024
8595	Dicamba	198	ug/Kg	85.2	ug/Kg	195	19.5-315	5/9/2024
8605	Dichlorprop	678	ug/Kg	163	ug/Kg	534	53.4-775	5/9/2024
8620	Dinoseb	197	ug/Kg	107	ug/Kg	199	19.9-285	5/9/2024
7775	MCPA	<10	ug/Kg	<1000	ug/Kg	<1000	0.00-1000	5/9/2024
7780	MCPP	<10	ug/Kg	<1000	ug/Kg	<1000	0.00-1000	5/9/2024
8655	2,4,5-T	775	ug/Kg	154	ug/Kg	701	70.1-1000	5/9/2024
8650	2,4,5-TP	988	ug/Kg	286	ug/Kg	835	83.5-1500	5/9/2024
6605	Pentachlorophenol	832	ug/Kg	328	ug/Kg	844	84.4-928	5/9/2024

Herbicides in Water		ERA Lot#042324P				
NELAC Analyte Code	Analyte	8321		Assigned		8321 Analysis Date
		Reported Value	Units	Value	Units	
8545	2,4-D	2.15	ug/L	3.48	0.348-5.55	4/25/2024
8560	2,4-DB	7.13	ug/L	9.48	1.15-15.6	4/25/2024
8555	Dalapon	3.24	ug/L	4.85	0.00-7.64	4/25/2024
8595	Dicamba	7.36	ug/L	8.55	2.05-11.9	4/25/2024
8605	Dichlorprop	3.66	ug/L	4.89	0.941-7.26	4/25/2024
8620	Dinoseb	5.82	ug/L	5.02	0.00-7.83	4/25/2024
7775	MCPA	<1.0	ug/L	<10.0	0.00-10.0	4/25/2024
7780	MCPP	<1.0	ug/L	<10.0	0.00-10.0	4/25/2024
8655	2,4,5-T	4.36	ug/L	7.94	1.78-11.4	4/25/2024
8650	2,4,5-TP	2.28	ug/L	3.26	0.814-4.93	4/25/2024
6605	Pentachlorophenol	8.93	ug/L	8.00	1.06-11.9	4/25/2024

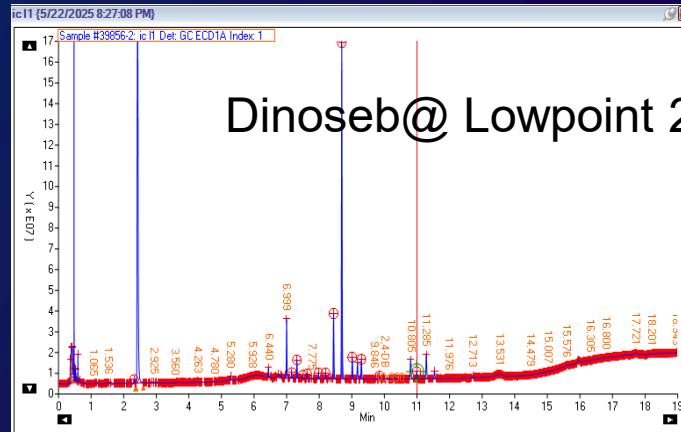
➤ Aqueous and soil PT results for method 8321 closer to the assigned value compared to the result obtained from GC method 8151, especially for Dinoseb. 

Reported value: 197 ug/kg  
Assigned: 199 ug/kg

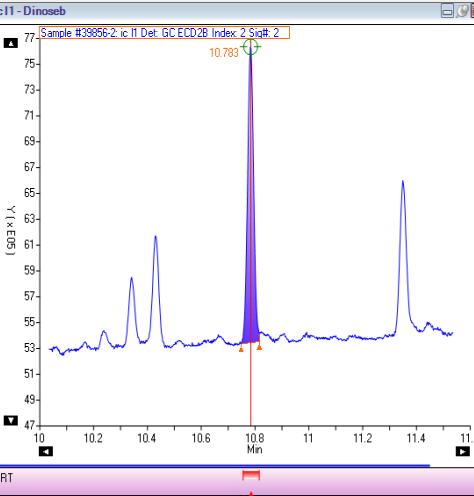
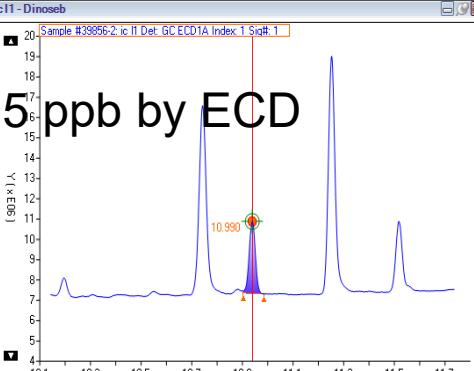
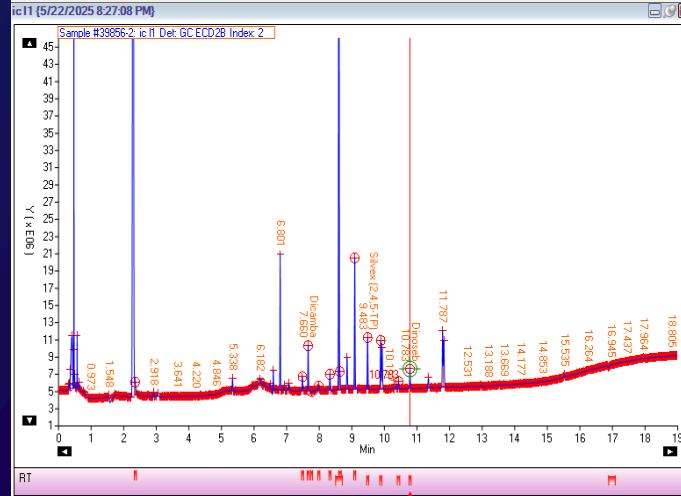
Reported value: 5.82 ug/L  
Assigned value: 5.02 ug/L

- Peak Identification
- %R of LCS/D, MS/D

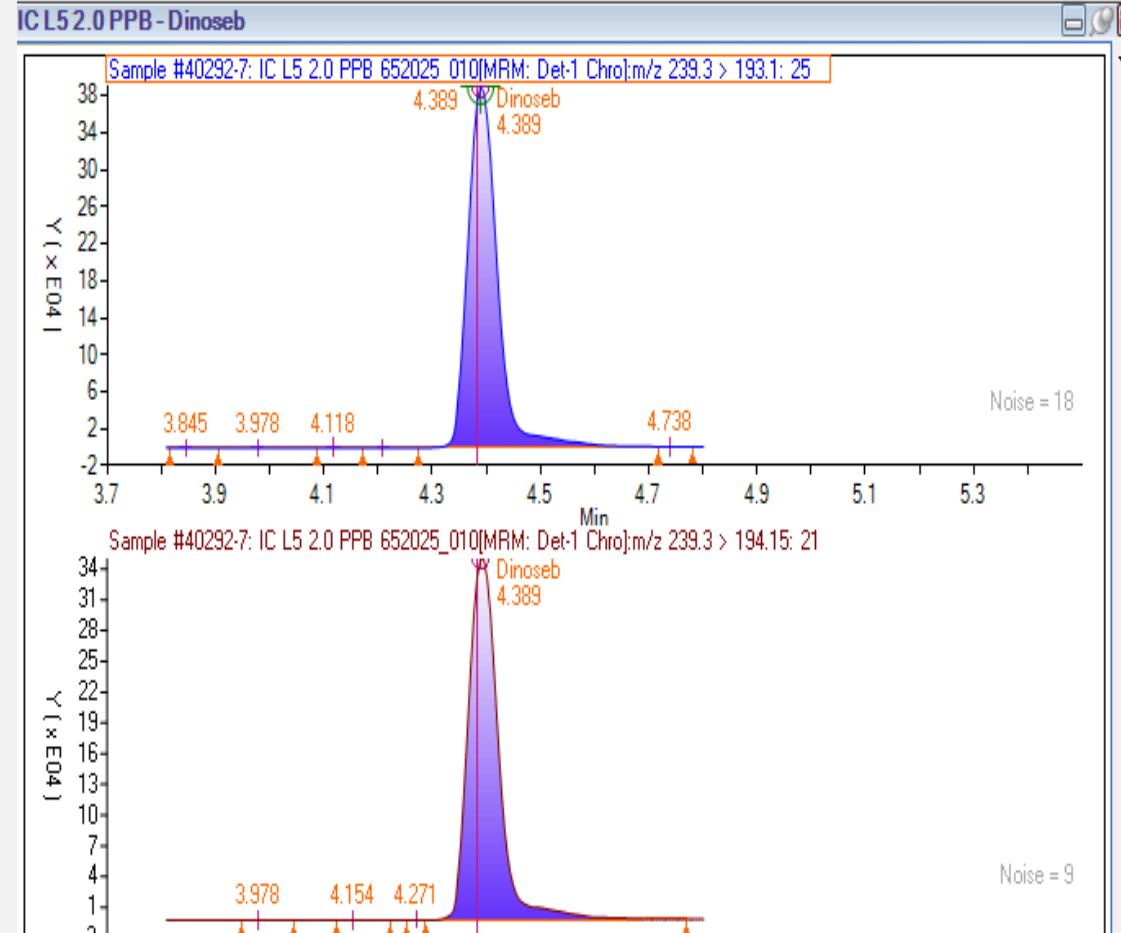
## Problematic Compounds: DINOSEB & DALAPON



Dinoseb@ Lowpoint 2.5 ppb by ECD

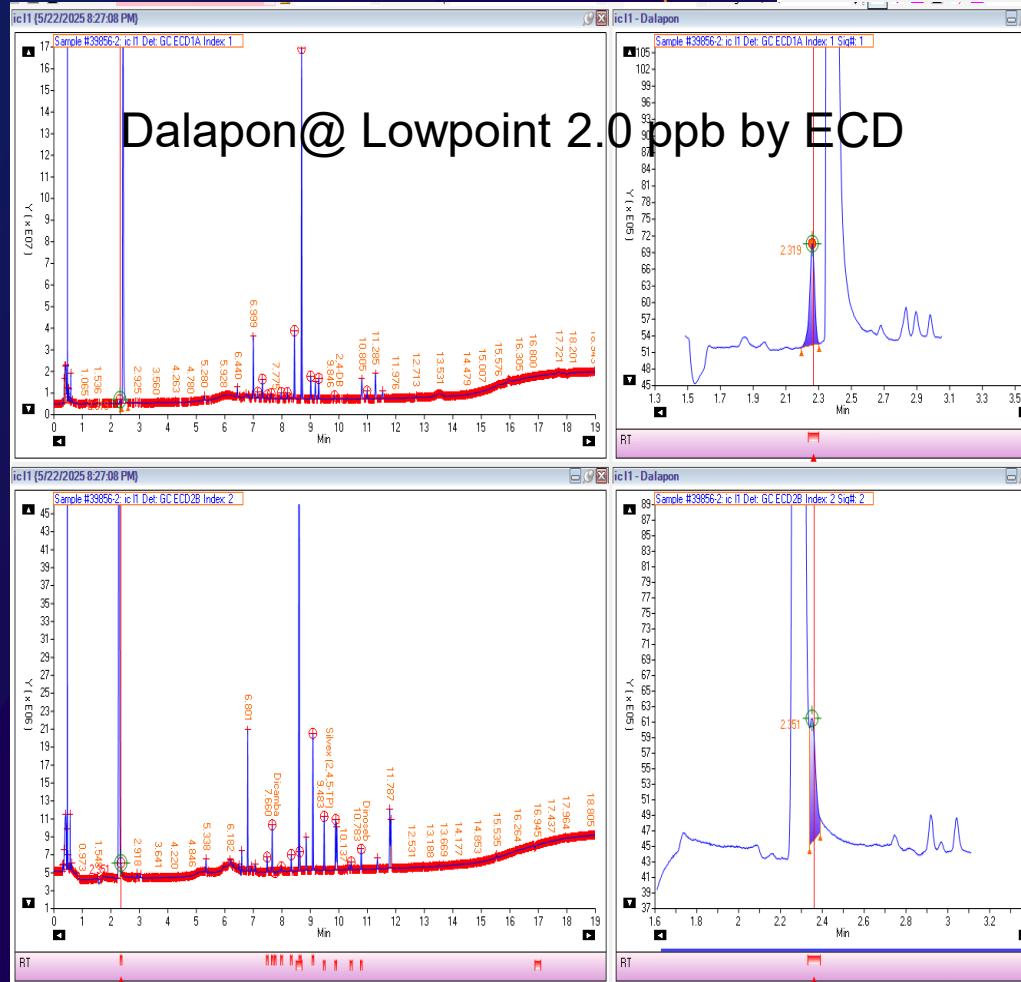


Dinoseb@ Midpoint 2.0 ppb by LC/MSMS

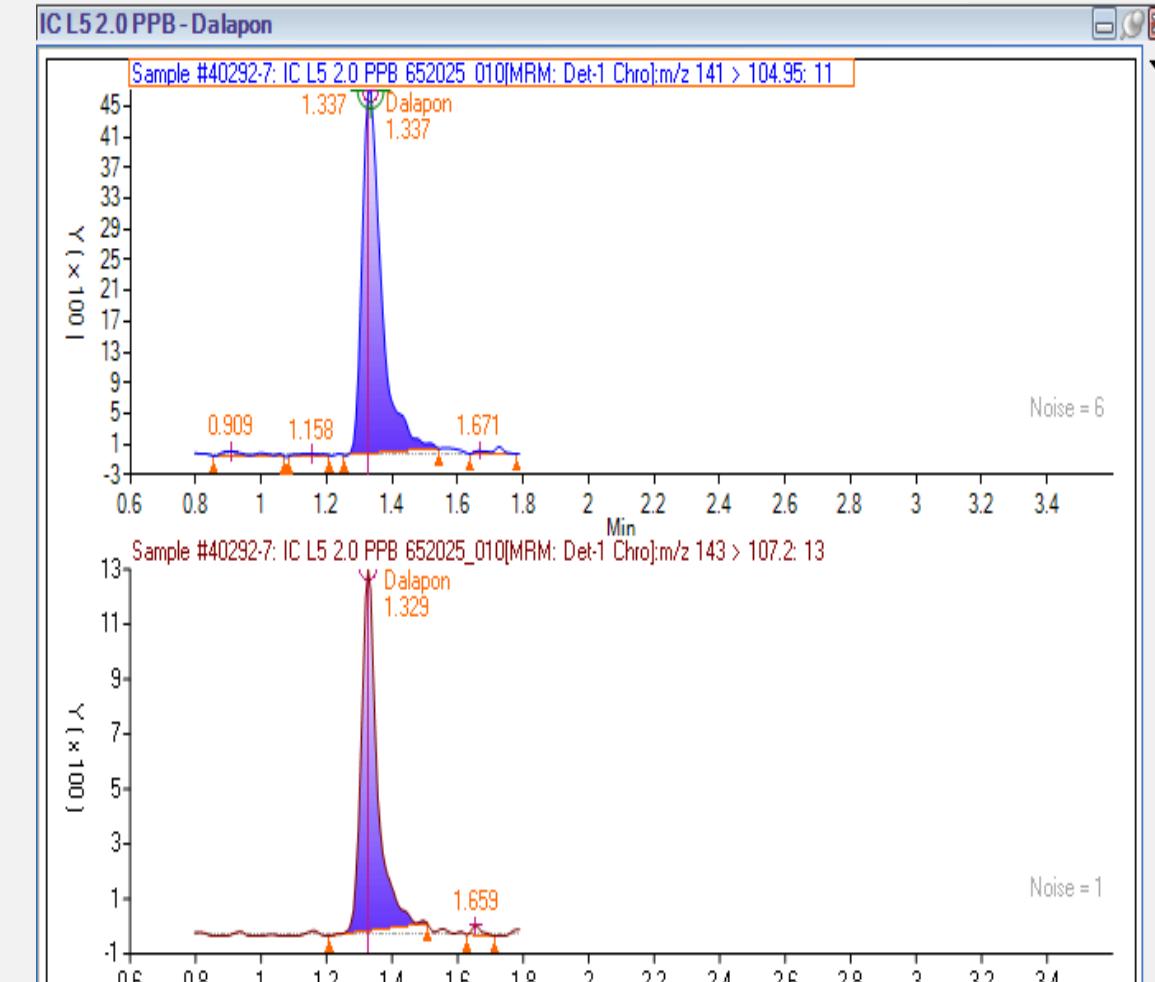


- Peak Identification
- %R of LCS/D, MS/D

## Problematic Compounds: DINOSEB & DALAPON



Dalapon@ Midpoint 2.0 ppb by LC/MSMS



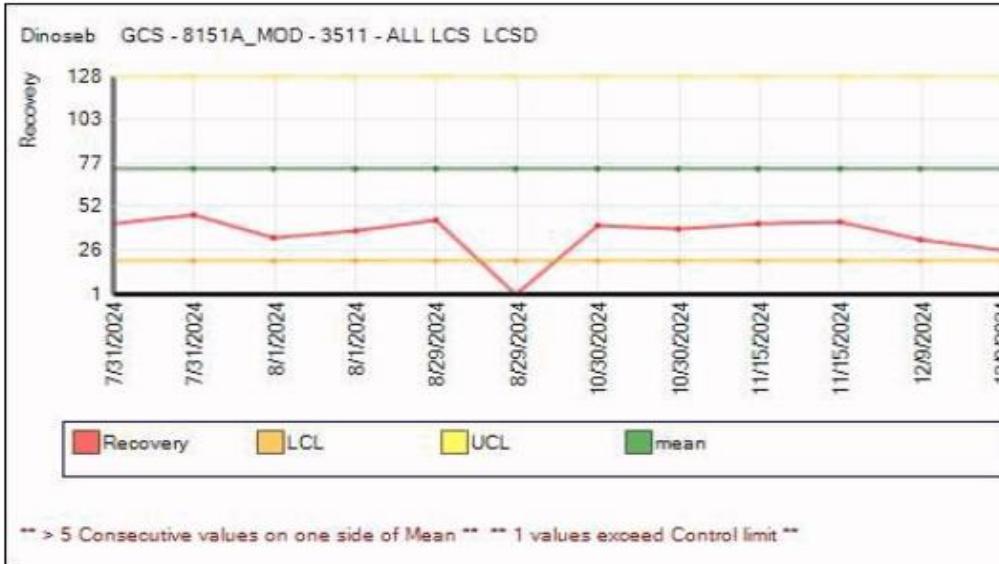
- Peak Identification
- %R of LCS/D, MS/D

# Problematic Compounds: DINOSEB

## 8151 vs 8321 Water Matrix

Dinoseb

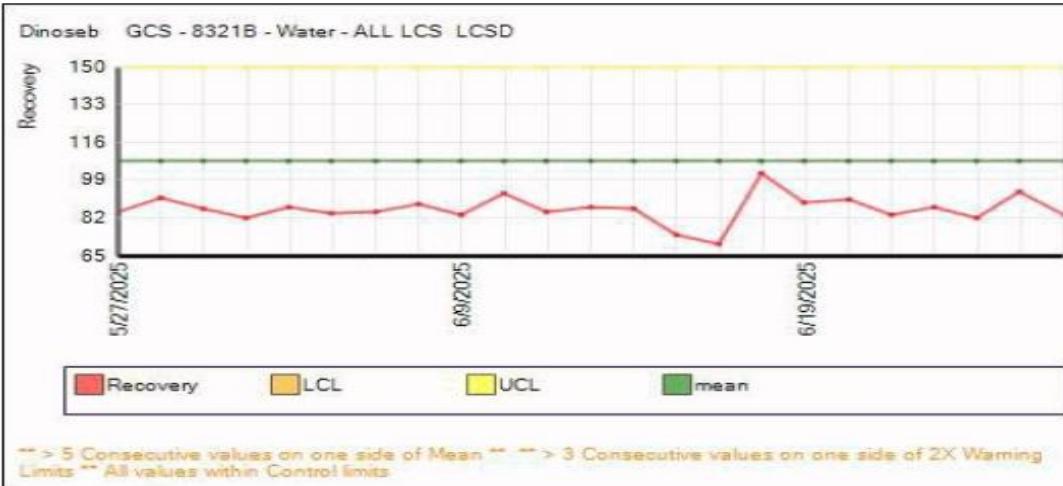
Analysis Dates: 7/31/2024 to 12/9/2024



8151  
LCS/LCSD  
%R: 35.29%  
%RSD: 35.19%  
N=200

Dinoseb

Analysis Dates: 7/1/2024 to 6/27/2025



8321  
LCS/LCSD  
%R: 106%  
%RSD: 15.25%  
N=200

- Peak Identification
- %R of LCS/D, MS/D

# Problematic Compounds: DALAPON

## 8151 vs 8321 Water Matrix

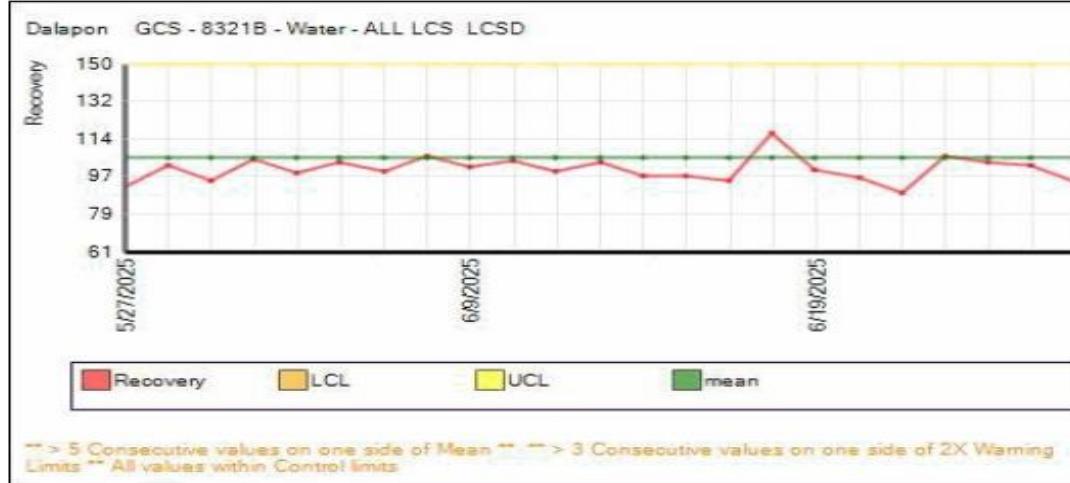
Dalapon

Analysis Dates: 7/31/2024 to 12/9/2024



Dalapon

Analysis Dates: 7/1/2024 to 6/27/2025



8151  
LCS/LCSD  
%R: 67%  
RSD: 14%  
N=200

8321  
LCS/LCSD  
%R: 110%  
RSD: 12.66%  
N=200

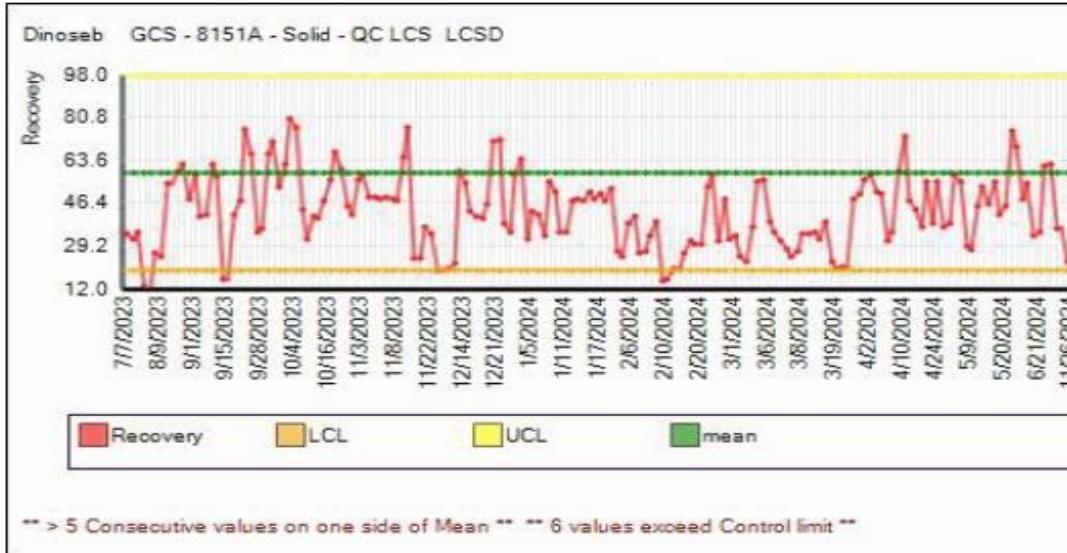
- Peak Identification
- %R of LCS/D, MS/D

# Problematic Compounds: DINOSEB

## 8151 vs 8321 Solid Matrix

Dinoseb

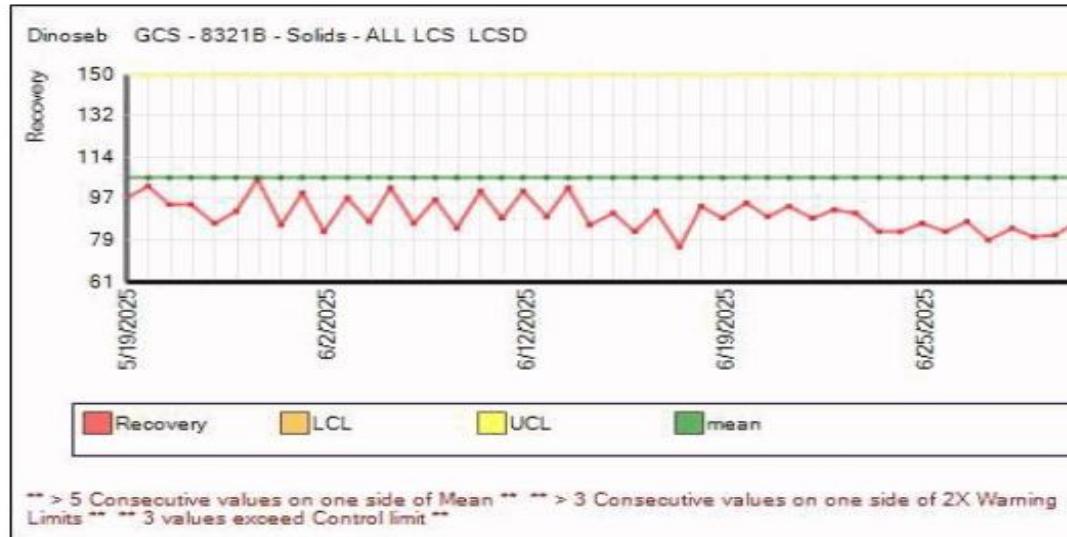
Analysis Dates: 7/7/2023 to 11/26/2024



8151  
LCS/LCSD  
%R: 42.7%  
%RSD: 35.4%  
N=200

Dinoseb

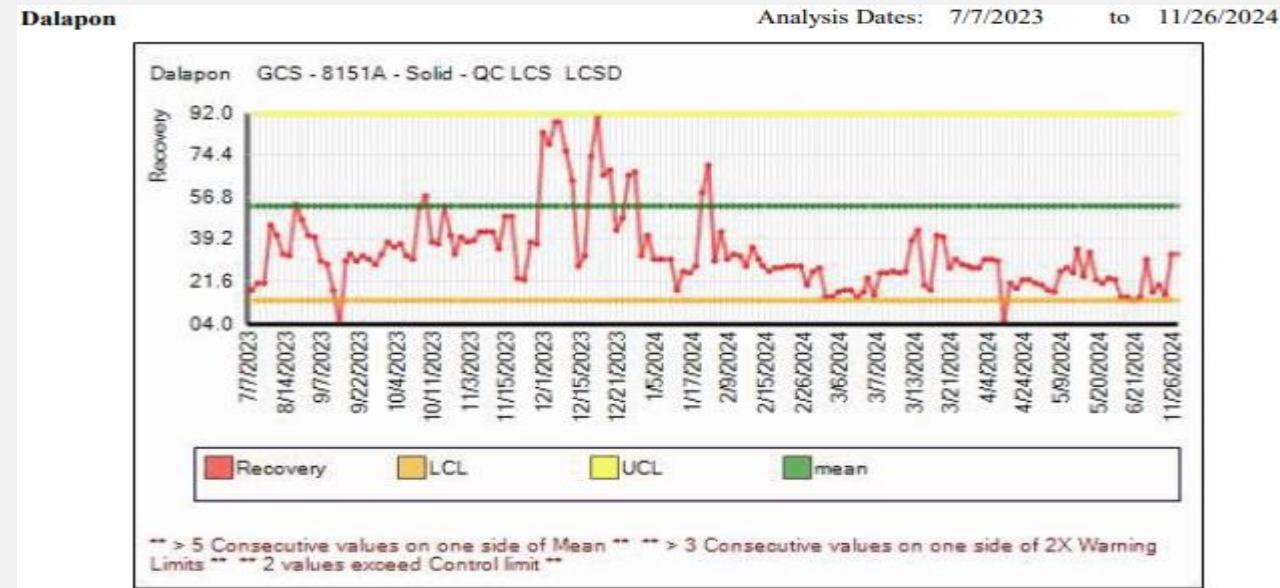
Analysis Dates: 7/1/2024 to 6/27/2025



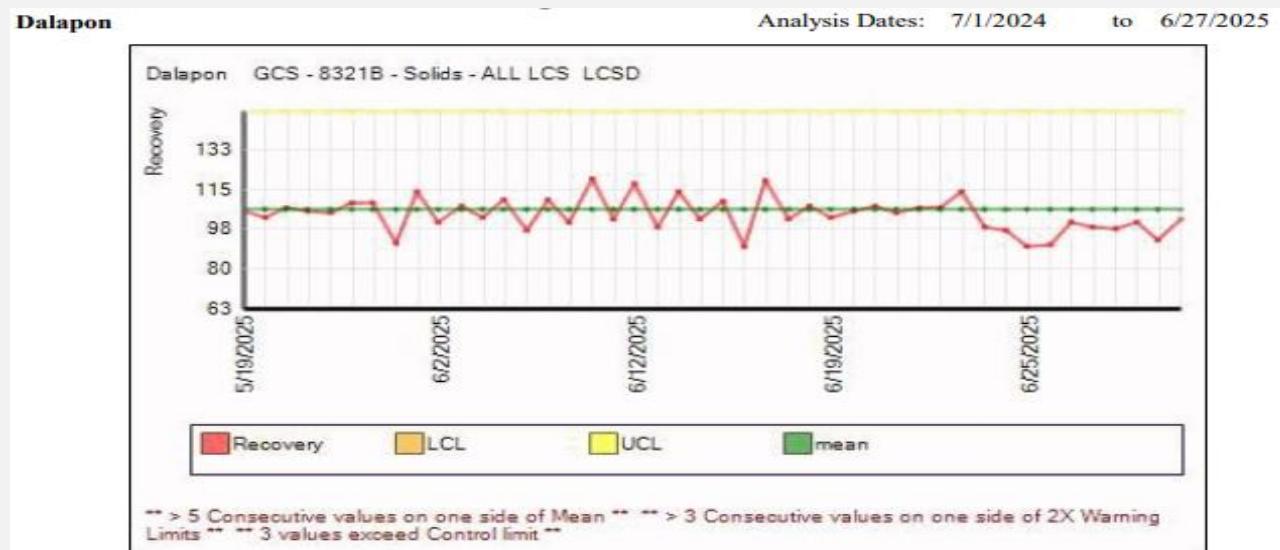
8321  
LCS/LCSD  
%R: 110%  
%RSD: 17.7%  
N=200

- Peak Identification
- %R of LCS/D, MS/D

# Problematic Compounds: DALAPON 8151 vs 8321 Solid Matrix



8151  
LCS/LCSD  
%R: 33.4%  
%RSD: 48.8%  
N=200

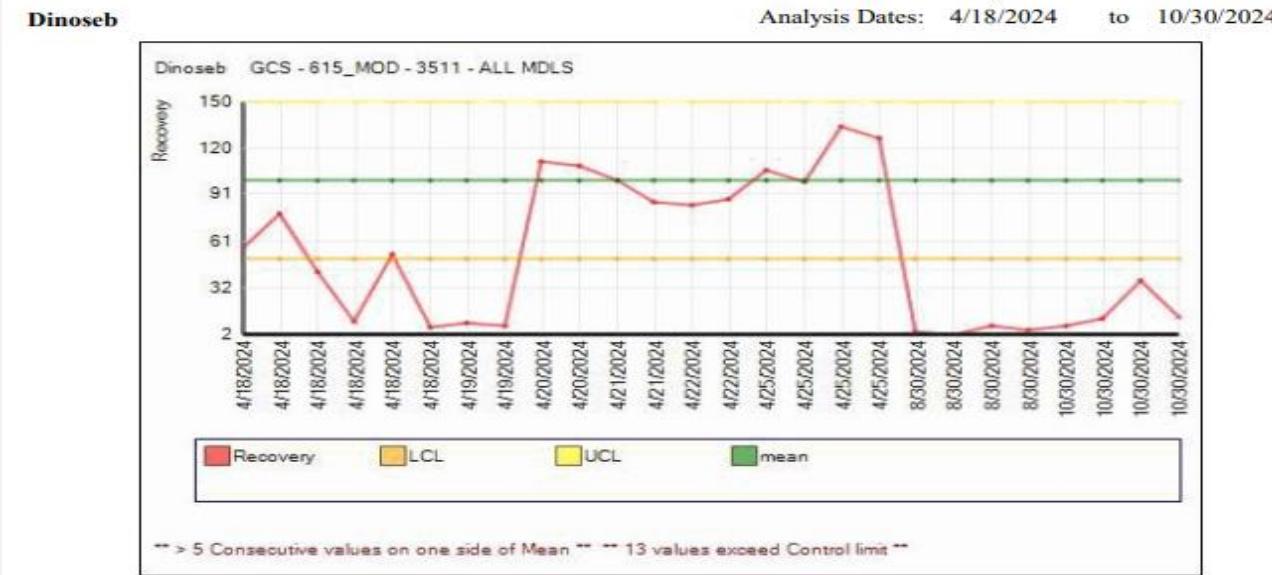


8321  
LCS/LCSD  
%R: 116%  
%RSD: 14.11%  
N=200

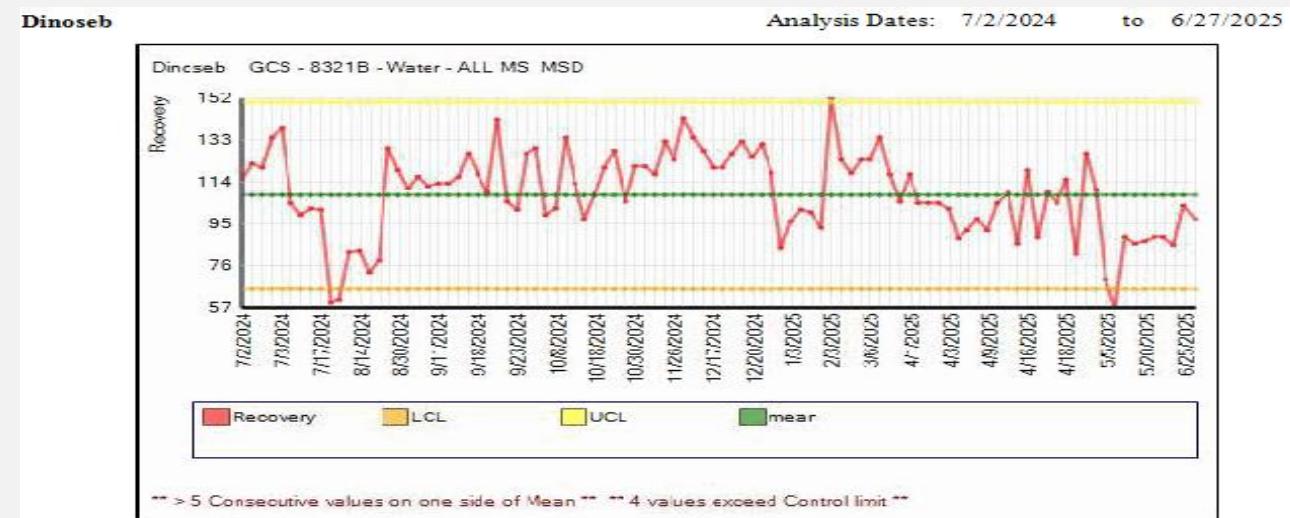
- Peak Identification
- %R of LCS/D, MS/D

# Problematic Compounds: DINOSEB

## 8151 vs 8321 Water Matrix



8151  
MS/MSD  
%R: 53.3%  
%RSD: 86.45%  
N=200

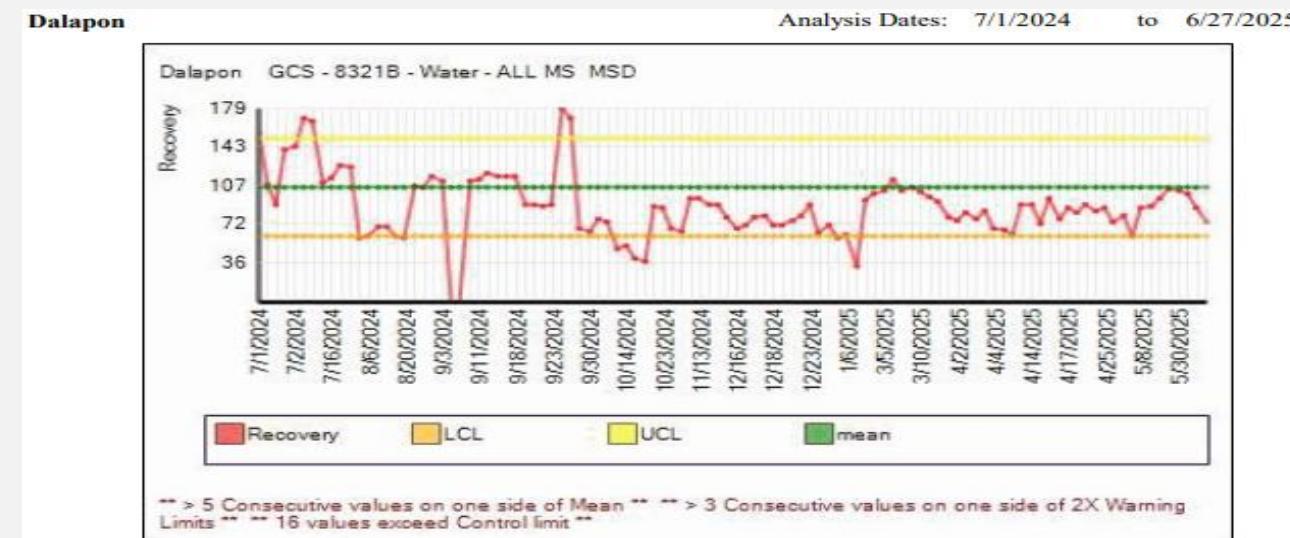
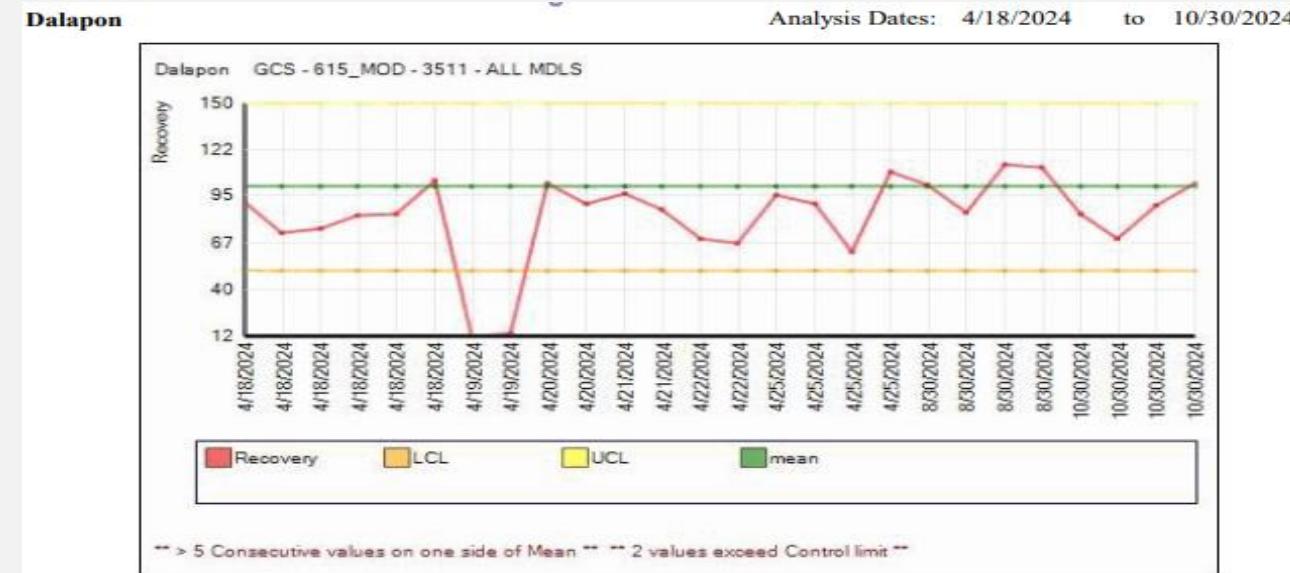


8321  
MS/MSD  
%R: 109.1%  
%RSD: 17.51%  
N=200

- Peak Identification
- %R of LCS/D, MS/D

# Problematic Compounds: DALAPON

## 8151 vs 8321 Water Matrix



8151  
MS/MSD  
%R: 82.9%  
%RSD: 30.13%  
N=200

8321  
MS/MSD  
%R: 87.92%  
%RSD: 27.85%  
N=200

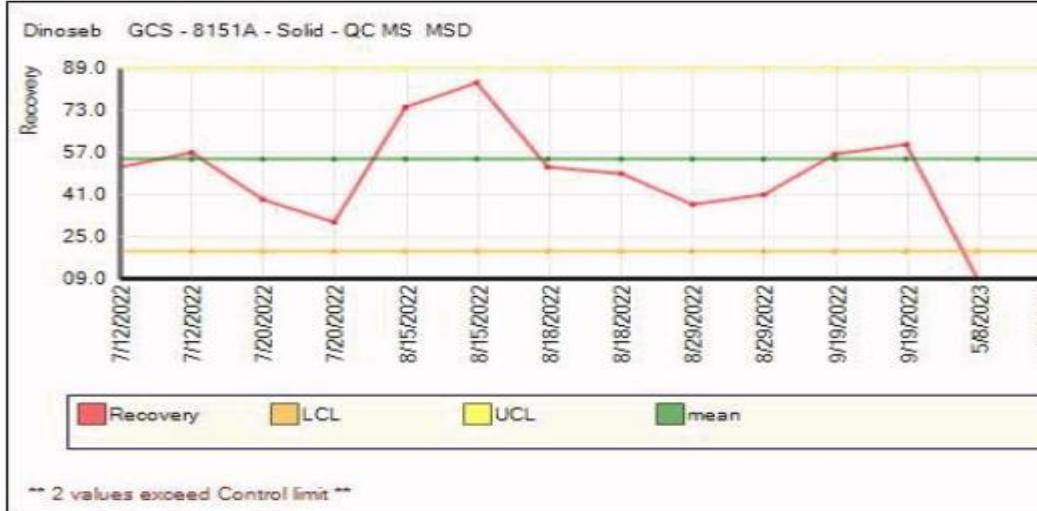
- Peak Identification
- %R of LCS/D, MS/D

# Problematic Compounds: DINOSEB

## 8151 vs 8321 Solid Matrix

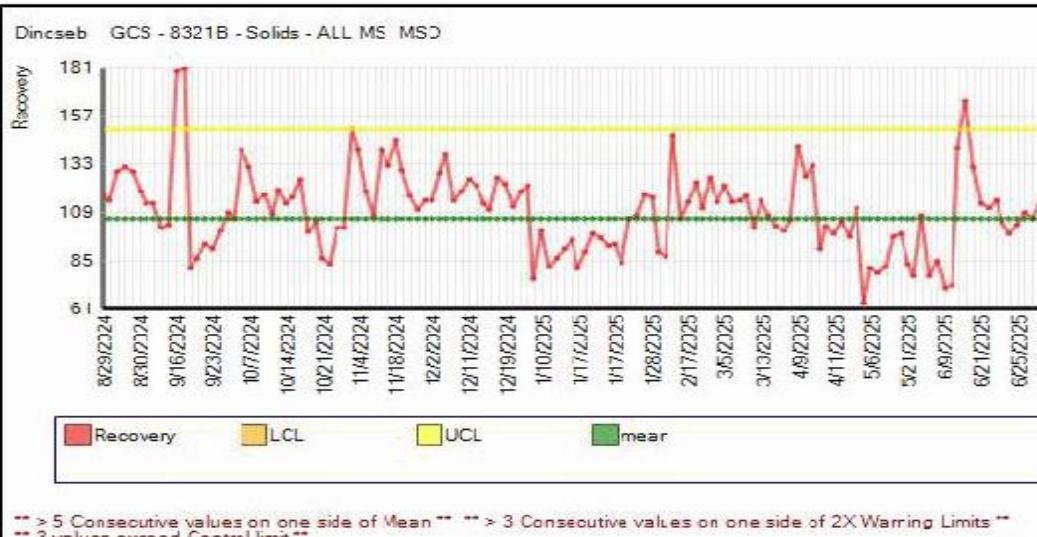
Dinoseb

Analysis Dates: 7/12/2022 to 5/8/2023



Dinoseb

Analysis Dates: 8/29/2024 to 6/26/2025



8151  
MS/MSD  
%R: 46.12%  
%RSD: 45.68%  
N=200

8321  
MS/MSD  
%R: 109%  
%RSD: 18.65%  
N=200

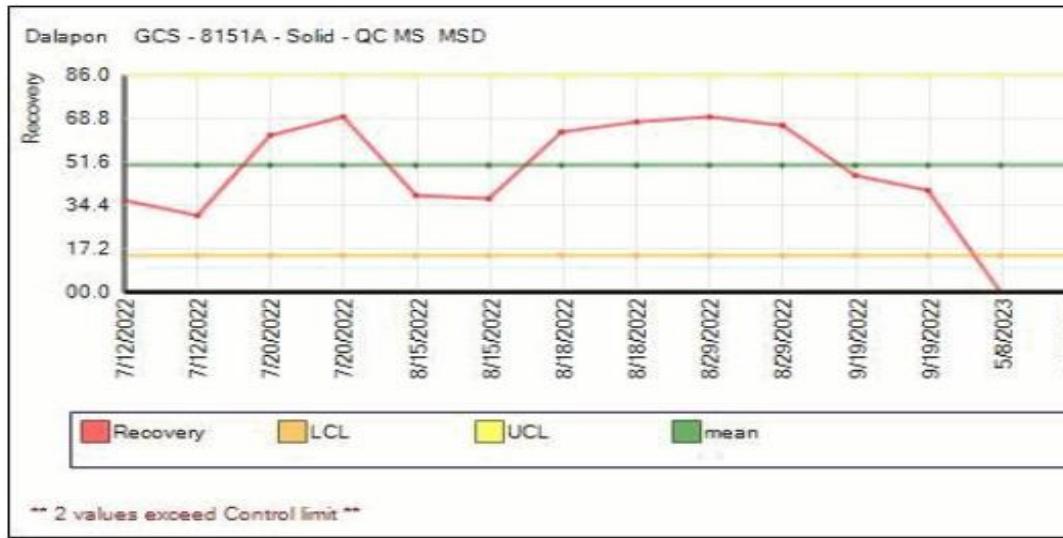
- Peak Identification
- %R of LCS/D, MS/D

# Problematic Compounds: DALAPON

## 8151 vs 8321 Solid Matrix

Dalapon

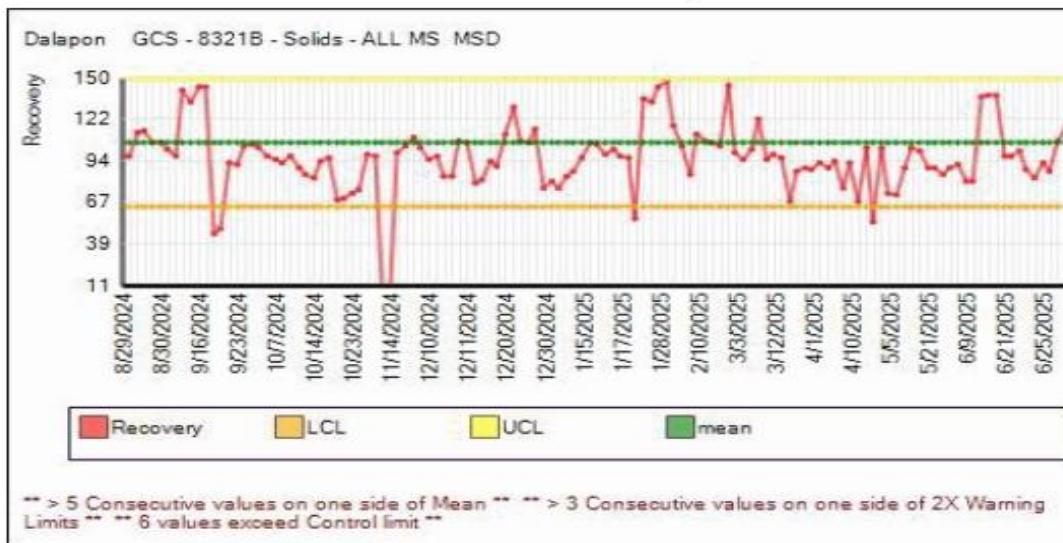
Analysis Dates: 7/12/2022 to 5/8/2023



8151  
MS/MSD  
%R: 46.53%  
%RSD: 42.14%  
N=200

Dalapon

Analysis Dates: 8/29/2024 to 6/26/2025



8321  
MS/MSD  
%R: 95.6%  
%RSD: 24.09%  
N=200

# What Changes?

- Superior specificity and sensitivity
- Fast sample preparation
- Elimination of excessive organic solvent use
- 1 day TAT possible



- Acceptable performance for accuracy and precision
- Extraction recoveries for most common herbicides are excellent and routinely fall within 30% of the true value
- High throughput



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THANK YOU

