Reviewer's report

Title: Investigation of Swedish cases results in detection of an outbreak of cryptosporidiosis at a Norwegian hotel with possible links to in-house water systems

Version: 1 Date: 27 August 2008

Reviewer: Michael J Arrowood

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions:
No major compulsory revisions are suggested.

Minor essential revisions:
Page 7, paragraph 3, line 6: Describe/define the "detergent-based buffer" used for elution. Describe centrifugation conditions (rcf? time?). Consider describing how much of the sediment was comprised of filter matrix and how much was contaminating matter originating in the influent water.

Page 14, paragraph 2, line 5: It would serve the reader and help communicate what is meant by the term “relatively low” to actually present the reported range of oocysts. It might be useful to mention that the MID50 numbers for parasites (e.g. Cryptosporidium, Toxoplasma) are often much lower than for many bacteria or viruses.

Discretionary revisions:
Page 10, paragraph 4, line 6: The small number of oocysts detected reveal what would be commonly considered “low level” contamination. Negatives in the samples collected in April may indicate contamination levels (at the time of sampling) just below the detection limit of the water testing methods. No change suggested, but consider remarking that low level contamination is not unusual and not necessarily an indication that oocysts numbers necessary for infection were not present.

Page 14, paragraph 1, line 12: It might be useful to reinforce the recommendation to maintain good hygienic practices when handling food and when using the bathroom facilities.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.