



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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BOB MARTIN
Commissioner

March 12, 2012

Dear Laboratory Manager:

RE: NJ DEP has withdrawn from the DMR-QA Program

On November 30, 2011, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved the Department's request to withdraw from the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Discharge Monitoring Report – Quality Assurance (DMR-QA) Program. EPA granted approval of the withdrawal because the Department's state-wide laboratory certification program is an adequate surrogate for the DMR-QA Program. The withdrawal is effective beginning in 2012.

What does this mean?

NPDES permittees will no longer receive or be required to complete DMR-QA studies from EPA. Instead, the Department's Environmental Laboratory Certification Program (ELCP) will continue to track compliance with the proficiency test (PT) requirements through the Laboratory Certification Program. As per N.J.A.C. 7:18, Regulations Governing the Certification of Laboratories and Environmental Measurements, all environmental laboratories performing testing and analysis for compliance purposes must be in compliance with and obtain laboratory accreditation according to N.J.A.C. 7:18. N.J.A.C. 7:18 includes laboratory supervisor requirements and other quality assurance (QA) and quality control (QC) requirements including the requirement to successfully analyze at least one PT sample every 12 months. Failure to successfully complete a PT study within the previous 12 months will result in suspension or revocation of certification.

What if my permit mandates participation in the DMR-QA Program?

Beginning in 2012, the DMR-QA program is no longer required in New Jersey. NPDES permittees are exempt from any permit condition that requires participation in the DMR-QA

Program. The ELCP is an adequate surrogate for the DMR-QA Program. As such, all permittees should ensure, on an on-going basis, that they are using a laboratory with the appropriate level of certification for all required analyses. Remember, laboratories that maintain their certification are in compliance with all QA/QC requirements, including the requirement to analyze at least one PT sample every 12 months.

What do I need to do now?

The approval was contingent on our office maintaining a proficiency testing program that covers all DMR-QA parameters for all certified laboratories, including laboratories performing whole effluent toxicity testing (WETT). This means that all certified laboratories must participate and pass an acceptable Water Pollution (WP) PT study for all applicable parameters in which they maintain certification. Facilities and permit holders that have previously sent samples to a contract laboratory no longer need to gather contract laboratory data for the DMR-QA reports. The contract laboratories will be responsible for having PT Providers submit the results to our office. The raw data and the NJPDES Monitoring Report Forms (MRFs) do not need to be submitted to us by the facility or permit holder.

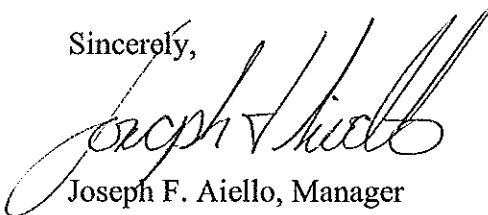
For laboratories participating in the New Jersey National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP), each laboratory must have an acceptable WP PT study submitted to our office by the PT Provider by June 1st of each year. For all laboratories participating in the New Jersey State Environmental Laboratory Certification Program (ELCP) all results must be submitted to the PT provider by the due date of the New Jersey study. For laboratories conducting whole effluent toxicity testing, results of the current DMR-QA WETT PT study shall be submitted to the PT provider by the due date of the study. At the time of submittal the laboratory must request that the results be submitted to the OQA in order for the permittees that require testing for WETT parameters to be exempt from submitting the DMR-QA paperwork.

Where can I get more information about the Department's Laboratory Accreditation Program and PT requirements?

For more information, please go to the Department's Web site at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/oqa/> or contact the OQA at (609)292-3950.

Please contact either Rachel Ellis or me at (609) 292-3950 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Joseph F. Aiello, Manager