State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Office of Quality Assurance
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CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

BOB MARTIN
Commissioner

November 9, 2011

Dear Laboratory Manager:

RE: Certification of Low Flow Parameters

The administration of New Jersey's Environmental Laboratory Certification Program is based on the requirements established in the Regulations Governing the Certification of Laboratories and Environmental Measurements (N.J.A.C. 7:18 et seq.). Based upon these regulations, any business generating analytical data in response to a New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (Department) program must be certified by the Office of Quality Assurance (OQA) for all required parameters. This requirement applies to any business using Low Flow Purge and Sampling (LFPS) instruments associated with water quality indicator parameters (WQIPs) including pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, and conductivity.

As previously stated by the Department's Site Remediation Program (SRP) in a ListServ notice sent June 7, 2011 (and also posted on SRPs website on June 7, 2011), all laboratories or businesses involved in any laboratory or field activity that generates and/or provides analytical data to the Department must have all applicable certifications for the specific parameters or categories for which certification exists pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:18-1 et seq. This requirement applies to both measurements that occur in a conventional laboratory environment and to measurements that take place in the field. As such, for example, companies obtaining environmental samples by performing low flow purging and sampling are to have the applicable certifications (conductivity, turbidity, pH, dissolved oxygen, and temperature) prior to May 2012. Therefore, in order to continue performing low flow purging and sampling for conductivity, turbidity, pH, dissolved oxygen, and temperature for the SRP after May 2012 your laboratory or business is required to have been granted certification for these parameters through the OQA. This requirement pertains to all laboratories and businesses performing this activity, regardless whether or not the equipment in use is rented or owned.

Through the OQAs efforts to grant certification to laboratories and businesses for these parameters it has been found that most facilities are not familiar with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 7:18 et seq. and the applicable methods. This has led to the certification of these parameters taking more time than originally anticipated. It is your laboratory's / business's responsibility to ensure you meet the requirements necessary to obtain certification by May

2012. It has been our experience over the last few months that certification for these parameters has been taking approximately three to four months after an on-site audit has been performed. Certification will not be granted until all applicable requirements of N.J.A.C. 7:18 et seq. have been met. This includes having an acceptable on-site audit completed, and the submittal of acceptable Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), raw data records, and Proficiency Test results. In order to facilitate your laboratory's / business's knowledge of the requirements of N.J.A.C. 7:18 et seq., and to help ensure your laboratory obtains certification by May 2012, the OQA has developed a guidance document for your reference. This document (Attachment A) is enclosed for your review. All the requirements contained in this guidance document must be met prior to certification being granted. Upon review of this document, if you still have questions you should contact your laboratory certification officer for assistance.

If you have any questions regarding this matter please contact Mr. Joseph Aiello or your assigned laboratory certification officer at (609) 292-3950.

Sincerely,

Joseph F. Aiello, Manager

Enclosure: Attachment A