



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR



JARED BLUMENFELD
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

State Water Resources Control Board

April 18th, 2022

«First_Name» «Last_Name»

«Facility»

«Address»

«City», «State» «Zip»

SUBJECT: DMR-QA STUDY 42

Hello «First_Name» «Last_Name»,

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) released DMR-QA Study 42 on April 8th, 2022. Under the authority of Section 308 of the Clean Water Act, the U.S. EPA requires major and selected minor permittees under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program to participate in the annual Discharge Monitoring Report-Quality Assurance (DMR-QA) Study. **Participation in the DMR-QA Study is mandatory.** The DMR-QA Study evaluates the analytical performance of laboratories that routinely perform or support self-monitoring analyses required by NPDES permits to ensure the integrity of the NPDES Program. California holds an exemption waiver with the U.S. EPA that allows California NPDES permit holders to work directly with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) for proficiency testing data submission and timelines.

In California, there are two options to satisfy the requirements of the DMR-QA Study 42. The permittee can submit results from the on-site and/or contract laboratories analysis of a DMR-QA sample or the laboratories' most recent Water Pollution (WP) Performance Evaluation Study. It is the responsibility of the permittee to ensure that proficiency testing activities of the laboratories satisfy the DMR-QA Study 42 requirements. Permittees can review the Study 42 instructions included as an attachment to this email and on the website.

<https://www.epa.gov/compliance/discharge-monitoring-report-quality-assurance-study-program>

All DMR-QA and WP testing samples must be purchased from an accredited Proficiency Testing (PT) provider. A list of accredited providers accompanies this notification letter. The Permittee is responsible for having the in-house and/or contract laboratories analyze wastewater PT samples for all analytes required to be monitored under their NPDES permit. The Permittee shall submit the results of the DMR-

QA Study or the results of the most recent WP Performance Evaluation Study to the State Water Board Quality Assurance Officer (State Water Board QA Officer) at QualityAssurance@Waterboards.ca.gov. In alignment with US EPA's schedule, all DMR-QA or PT Study results and any accompanying corrective actions shall be submitted to the State Water Board QA Officer by **December 31th, 2022**.

It is the responsibility of the permittee to submit qualifying DMR-QA Study 42 test results from all onsite or contract laboratories that performs work for the associated NPDES permit to the State Water Board QA Officer. The State Water Board QA Officer (State DMR-QA Coordinator) will then send the DMR-QA Study 42 results to the National DMR-QA Coordinator and U.S. EPA Region IX Quality Assurance Manager.

The key components of the study are listed below.

1. The Study period is the entire twelve months of the year. However, participation earlier in the year allows for extra time to perform corrective action procedures and sample retesting, if necessary.
2. Laboratories may use the same WP Performance Evaluation Study test results that are used for the laboratory accreditation process to satisfy the requirements of the DMR-QA Study 42.
3. It is important that you request results from each contract laboratory used by your facility and maintain a copy of the evaluated results for your records. The results should be sent to you in pdf file reports. A copy of the evaluated data must be submitted to the State Water Board QA Officer.
4. Please submit all data files/reports from the approved PT vendors and laboratories to the State Water Board QA Officer. Additionally, please inform the vendor to provide CSV data files to the State Board QA Officer of the data results you are submitting. These files are uploaded by State Water Board staff into the DMR-QA database for this study. **As the NPDES Permittee, you are responsible for ensuring the DMR-QA Study data is received by the State Water Board QA Officer. The State Water Board does not retrieve DMR-QA Study results from a vendor or laboratory website portal.**

If any results are graded "Not Acceptable," you must submit a corrective action report to the State Water Board. **As the NPDES Permittee, you are responsible for ensuring that a corrective action report is prepared and sent to the State Water Board QA Officer.** This consists of a follow up with the laboratories to determine the root cause of the deficiency and describe the corrective action that will take place to prevent future occurrences. Retesting for the analytes that are graded "Not Acceptable" is required. Results from all PT retests shall be submitted to the State Board QA Officer. Failure to submit corrective action information or results from PT retests may result in loss of accreditation from the California Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP).

Below is the current information the State Water Board has on file for your facility. Please review this information and notify me of any corrections via my e-mail address or by telephone **within 30 calendar days from receipt of this notification**. Please list the laboratories that you use for the DMR-QA Study 42 testing and their corresponding accreditation numbers associated with this NPDES

permit. If your onsite laboratory and your contract laboratories hold both ELAP and the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP) accreditations, please include both accreditation certificate numbers. Additionally, please provide the EPA Lab ID number for each laboratory that reports data for your NPDES permit number including the on-site laboratory. This ID may be found on the data report sent to you or your contract laboratories by the vendor.

If there are no changes, please respond stating there are no changes.

Permit number: NPDES «NPDES»

Contact person: «First_Name» «Last_Name»

Mailing address: «Address»,
«City», «State» «Zip»

Phone number: «Discharger_Phone»

E-mail address: «Discharger_Email»

| LABORATORY NAME | EPA ID # | ELAP # | NELAP # |
|-----------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| «Lab_Name_1» | «EPA_ID_1» | «ELAP_1» | «NELAP_1» |
| «Lab_Name_2» | «EPA_ID_2» | «ELAP_2» | «NELAP_2» |
| «Lab_Name_3» | «EPA_ID_3» | «ELAP_3» | «NELAP_3» |
| «Lab_Name_4» | «EPA_ID_4» | «ELAP_4_» | «NELAP_4» |
| «Lab_Name_5» | «EPA_ID_5» | «ELAP_5» | «NELAP_5» |
| «Lab_Name_6» | «EPA_ID_6» | «ELAP_6» | «NELAP_6» |
| «Lab_Name_7» | «EPA_ID_7» | «ELAP_7» | «NELAP_7» |
| «Lab_Name_8» | «EPA_ID_8» | «ELAP_8» | «NELAP_8» |
| «Lab_Name_9» | «EPA_ID_9» | «ELAP_9» | «NELAP_9» |

Please contact us at QualityAssurance@Waterboards.ca.gov if you have any questions.

Thank you,



Andrew Hamilton
State Water Board QA Officer | State DMR-QA Coordinator
Office of Information Management and Analysis | State Water Board

Accredited Proficiency Testing Providers

The following Proficiency Test (PT) Providers are accredited by A2LA or ACLASS. A2LA and ACLASS have each been designated a Proficiency Testing Oversight Body (PTOB)/Proficiency Testing Provider Accreditor (PTPA) by The NELAC Institute (TNI). Find the following PT Providers on the internet at: <http://www.nelac-institute.org/ptproviders.php>.

| NELAC-Accredited Provider | Chem | Micro | WET |
|--|-------------|--------------|------------|
| NYS DOH Environmental Laboratory Approval Program, Albany, NY Dr. Kenneth Aldous (518) 474-7161 elap@health.state.ny.us | X | X | |
| Environmental Resource Associates (ERA), Golden, CO (800) 372-0122 interlabgroup@eraqc.com ; info@eraqc.com www.eraqc.com | X | X | X |
| Absolute Standards, Inc., Hamden, CT Mr. Stephen Arpie (203) 281-2917 or (800) 368-1131 stephen@absolutestandards.com www.absolutestandards.com | X | X | |
| Phenova Inc., Golden, CO (303) 940-0033 info@phenova.com www.phenova.com | X | X | X |
| Advanced Analytical Solutions, LLC, Parkersburg, WV Fred Anderson (304) 485-6325 Fred@advancedqa.com www.advancedqa.com | X | X | |
| Millipore Sigma (formerly Sigma Aldrich), Laramie, WY Mrs. Jennifer Duhon (307) 742-5452 Fax: (855) 831-9211 RTCPTgroup@sial.com www.sigmaaldrich.com | X | X | X |
| NSI Lab Solutions, Raleigh, NC Mr. Mark Hammersla (919) 789-3000 or (800)234-7837 mark.hammersla@nsilabsolutions.com www.nsilabsolutions.com | X | X | |