

## State Water Resources Control Board

March 18, 2019

«First\_Name» «Last\_Name»  
«Facility»  
«Address»  
«City», «State» «Zip»

SUBJECT: DMR-QA STUDY 39

Hello «First\_Name» «Last\_Name»,

Under the authority of Section 308 of the Clean Water Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (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. The DMR-QA Study evaluates the analytical ability of laboratories that routinely perform or support self-monitoring analyses required by NPDES permits to ensure the integrity of the NPDES Program. The Permittee is responsible for having its in-house and/or contract laboratories analyze wastewater proficiency testing analytes that are both in its NPDES permit and included in DMR-QA Study 39.

**Participation in this Study is mandatory.**

U.S. EPA expects the final DMR-QA Study 39 data packet to be available before April 2019. While it is not anticipated that the DMR-QA Study 39 will vary from the previous DMR-QA Study, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) advises that the Permittee review the Study 39 instructions once the DMR Study 39 is made available online at <https://www.epa.gov/>. In California, the permittee may choose to begin the DMR-QA Study 39 before U.S. EPA has approved the final Study format by participating in water proficiency testing studies. It is the responsibility of the permittee to ensure that proficiency testing activities satisfy DMR-QA Study 39 requirements.

In California, there are two options to satisfy the requirements of the DMR-QA Study 39. The permittee can obtain and analyze a DMR-QA sample; or the Permittee can submit the results of the most recent Water Pollution (WP) Performance Evaluation Study results used for laboratory certification from its on-site and contract laboratories. Both DMR-QA and WP testing samples may be purchased by accredited proficiency testing providers. A list of providers accompanies this notification letter. 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. **It is your responsibility to submit the DMR-QA Study 39 test results from vendors, and onsite and outside laboratories that perform work associated with your NPDES permit to the State Water Board Quality Assurance Officer by December 31, 2019.** The Quality Assurance Officer will then send the

DMR-QA Study 39 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. Participation earlier in the year allows for extra time if sample retesting is necessary for corrective action purposes.
2. Laboratories may use the same Water Pollution (WP) Performance Evaluation Study test data that is used for the laboratory certification process in order to satisfy the requirements of the DMR-QA Study 39.
3. It is important that you request that each contract laboratory used by your facility send to you a copy of the evaluated results for your records. The results should be sent to you in pdf file reports. You will then send a copy of the evaluated data to the State Water Board Quality Assurance Officer.
4. Please submit all data files/reports from the approved Proficiency Testing (PT) vendors and laboratories to the State Water Board Quality Assurance 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 Quality Assurance 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 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. Failure to submit corrective action information can result in laboratory decertification by 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 39 testing and their corresponding certificate/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) certifications, please include both certification 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»

LAB NAME	ELAP #	NELAP #	EPA ID #

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you,



Renee Spears  
Quality Assurance Officer-State DMR-QA Coordinator  
State Water Resources Control Board 1001 I Street, 19-23  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: (916) 341-5583  
E-mail: [renee.spears@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:renee.spears@waterboards.ca.gov)

### 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 <a href="mailto:elap@health.state.ny.us">elap@health.state.ny.us</a>	X	X	
Environmental Resource Associates (ERA), Golden, CO (800) 372-0122 <a href="mailto:interlabgroup@eraqc.com">interlabgroup@eraqc.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:info@eraqc.com">info@eraqc.com</a> <a href="http://www.eraqc.com">www.eraqc.com</a>	X	X	X
Absolute Standards, Inc., Hamden, CT Mr. Stephen Arpie (203) 281-2917 or (800) 368-1131 <a href="mailto:stephen@absolutestandards.com">stephen@absolutestandards.com</a> <a href="http://www.absolutestandards.com">www.absolutestandards.com</a>	X	X	
Phenova Inc., Golden, CO (303) 940-0033 <a href="mailto:info@phenova.com">info@phenova.com</a> <a href="http://www.phenova.com">www.phenova.com</a>	X	X	X
Advanced Analytical Solutions, LLC, Parkersburg, WV Fred Anderson (304) 485-6325 <a href="mailto:Fred@advancedqa.com">Fred@advancedqa.com</a> <a href="http://www.advancedqa.com">www.advancedqa.com</a>	X	X	
Millipore Sigma (formerly Sigma Aldrich), Laramie, WY Mrs. Jennifer Duhon (307) 742-5452 Fax: (855) 831-9211 <a href="mailto:RTCPTgroup@sial.com">RTCPTgroup@sial.com</a> <a href="http://www.sigmaaldrich.com">www.sigmaaldrich.com</a>	X	X	X
NSI Lab Solutions, Raleigh, NC Mr. Mark Hammersla (919) 789-3000 or (800)234-7837 <a href="mailto:mark.hammersla@nsilabsolutions.com">mark.hammersla@nsilabsolutions.com</a> <a href="http://www.nsilabsolutions.com">www.nsilabsolutions.com</a>	X	X	

