



# ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

1021 NORTH GRAND AVENUE EAST, P.O. BOX 19276, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62794-9276 • (217) 782-3397

JB PRITZKER, GOVERNOR

JOHN J. KIM, DIRECTOR

## **IL ELAP Update to Accredited Labs:** August 23, 2023

This note is intended to provide an update to all Illinois (Primary) labs accredited by the Illinois Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (IL ELAP).

### **1. PFOS/PFOA**

- We are submitting a request to get EPA 1633 (draft) added to our scope of accreditation. EPA Legal staff has helped get this on the July Legislative agenda. We expect to hear before the end of 2023 that it has been approved.

### **2. Change Fee**

- A second request IEPA LAU is sending to the Illinois legislature is implementing a fee for out of cycle change requests to the laboratory's Certificate of Accreditation. Laboratories will be allowed to change their scope two months before and after their renewal date. Any errors that are found on the renewed COA will be corrected with no fee, also.
- The Fee of \$500.00 will be assessed for a change that is outside of the normal renewal window. The fee needs to be received before the IEPA LAU will make the changes to the laboratories scope. This change fee/amendment fee is standard practice across the industry.

### **3. Digital Application:**

- We have received several inquiries about the digital application being locked. The application must be locked because it will not import if any of the items are changed in any way on the analyte page. The "Find and Select" feature works for the application while it is locked, this aids in searching for specific methods. Sorry for any inconvenience.

### **4. pH accreditation from field samples:**

- Labs have asked if they can use the pH value the sampler obtains while taking the sample as the value and then not need to qualify on the report. No, the sampler is not accredited for pH, the field sampler does not participate in PTs, keep QA data etc. so field pH values cannot be listed on the reports, without a qualifier.

### **5. Reporting data as accredited:**

- NELAP, US EPA and Standard Methods are very clear on the environmental media (matrix) methods are validated with. If the matrix is not an approved environmental media (i.e., soil, water, air, asbestos etc.) then it is not applicable for these methods.

### **6. TDS in Drinking Water**

- While on an assessment, the question regarding allowing a study for the drying cycle for SM 2540 C for Drinking Water. US EPA Region 5 responded letting our unit know there is no allowance for a modification (i.e., drying overnight and doing a study to show no change in weight). Due to this being a drinking water method, the method language needs to be followed; "Dry for at least 1 hour at 103° to 105°C in an oven, cool in a desiccator and weigh. Repeat the cycle of drying, cooling, desiccating and weighing until a constant weight

is obtained or until the weight change is less than 4% of the previous weight or 0.5 mg, whichever is less.”

- Completing a study showing drying overnight is acceptable for Non-Drinking Water TDS, TSS methods. Assessors will request proof of the study.

### 7. Most Common Nonconformities seen on assessments.

- Using portions of one method and mixing with another similar method. This is not allowed, even if more stringent requirements are being used.
- IDOC issues—wrong procedure, not documented, not done for each analyte in the method, not done by each analyst or expired continuing DOCs.
- Not enough standard concentration levels for the calibration curve.
- Technical Managers without enough hours of chemistry documented on their transcripts, in accordance with TNI 2016 Standards V1M2 5.2.6.1 a) through f)  
**NOTE:** If a technical manager is short hours by a class or two and another qualifying person is at their laboratory, an interim technical manager title can be given once proof of enrollment in classes is obtained.
- Not documenting pH of samples at sample receiving.
- Laboratories reporting data below the lowest calibration standard.

### 8. Sample Extraction:

When a sample is extracted, are the reagents being used for the extraction documented for traceability? The reagents that are used need to be identified in LIMS and/or bench sheets to allow traceability. This is often overlooked.

### 9. Measurement Traceability

Suitable ways to obtain traceability of measurement results. Accredited laboratories can achieve traceability by using certified reference materials obtained from competent providers accredited to ISO 17034 standards, calibrations to the SI units (such as for NIST-traceable weight in grams and temperature in Celsius / Kelvin degrees), and standardizations of secondary standards with primary standards. Additionally, the TNI standard related to measurement traceability is V1, M2, 5.6.

Feel free to provide comments for our unit,

[Link to Survey for IEPA LAU](#)

#### IL ELAP Staff:

Millie Rose	Laboratory Accreditation Unit, Supervisor	<a href="mailto:mildred.rose@illinois.gov">mildred.rose@illinois.gov</a>	(217)557-0274
Dave Reed	Laboratory Accreditation Assessor	<a href="mailto:dave.reed@illinois.gov">dave.reed@illinois.gov</a>	(217)785-5163

Please recommend any topics for our Laboratory Communication Newsletter. Chances are if you have a question about something, someone else does, too.

[EPA.LAU@illinois.gov](mailto:EPA.LAU@illinois.gov)

**Primary Laboratories and Accreditation Officer**

<b>Laboratory Name</b>	<b>Accreditation Officer</b>
Four Rivers Sanitation Authority	Dave Reed
MWRDGC Calumet	Dave Reed
Scientific Control Lab	Dave Reed
AbbVie Environmental	Dave Reed
Eurofins-Chicago	Dave Reed
Rock River Fabrication	Dave Reed
City of Chicago Water Purification Lab	Dave Reed
Pace Analytical-Peoria	Dave Reed
MWRDGC Egan Analytical	Dave Reed
American Water Central Lab	Dave Reed
American Bottoms	Dave Reed
Teklab, Incorporate	TBD
Teklab Inc-Bluff Road	TBD
Lake County Environmental	TBD
Culligan Analytical Lab	TBD
Test, Inc.	TBD
Pace Analytical- McHenry	TBD
Environmental Monitoring	TBD
MWRDGC Stickney	TBD
Suburban Laboratories	TBD
MWRDGC Industrial Waste Lab (IWL)	TBD
MWRDGC Organic Compounds	Millie Rose
North Shore Water Reclamation District	Millie Rose
First Environmental Laboratories	Millie Rose
Will County Health Department	Millie Rose
SRN Testing Services	Millie Rose
ARDL, Inc.	Millie Rose
Sangamon County	Millie Rose
Grace Analytical Lab	Millie Rose
STAT Analysis Corp	Millie Rose
Gabriel Laboratories	Millie Rose

Please contact your assigned Accreditation Officer if you have questions and/or concerns.