



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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JB PRITZKER, GOVERNOR

JOHN J. KIM, DIRECTOR

IL ELAP Update to Accredited Labs: (January 5, 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

- Currently the LAU is accrediting for EPA 533 and EPA 537.1 in Drinking Water.
- Method 8217 and Method 3512 in SW-846 can be used to get accreditation for Non-Potable Water.
- We are submitting a request to get EPA 1633 (draft) added to our scope of accreditation by this time next year.

2. REMINDER-----Updating to the newest Standard Method Edition:

- Per TNI Standards, the laboratories should be using the most recent version of a method.
 - V1M2 5.4.2 *The laboratory shall ensure that it uses the latest valid edition of a standard unless it is not appropriate or possible to do so.*
- IEPA Laboratory Accreditation Unit (LAU) will only be accrediting Standard Methods editions 20-23 after **January 1, 2023**.
- The 2023 renewal/onsite assessment, whichever is sooner, will be when the labs need to update to the newer methods. If a lab is ready earlier, contact your LAU accreditation officer.
- For RCRA and CWA, where the Edition for Standard Methods is not used, the year for the corresponding method will be used.
- Please contact IEPA LAU if you have questions regarding the transition to the newest Standard Methods Editions.

3. Retirement:

- October 31, 2022, Mr. John South retired from the IEPA. We will miss John and we wish him great rest and relaxation.
- Below we have updated the list of labs with the primary accreditation officer assigned.

4. PT reports:

- Monthly the certification officers for our primary labs generates a PT report from our data base. We realized that we send the report results, but they are not intuitive, and we hoped by sending our “cliff notes” of the report, labs would understand what the report is showing. (See Explanation of PT Failures Report below)

5. Sample Quantity:

- The IEPA Assessors have noticed several laboratories qualifying data if they do not run Matrix Spikes/Matrix Spike Dups due to the client not providing enough sample. The qualifier that would be used should be “the method requirements were not met,” which would invalidate compliance data. This is a recurring issue and some labs have been incorrectly stating the LCS/LCSDs are equivalent to the MS/MSDs.
- Qualifying the Data does not fix this problem. The lab needs to address the root problem and require more sample volume to be compliant and to run the MS/MSDs as TNI and the method requires.
- If this issue is not corrected by the laboratory, it could negatively affect the labs accreditation.

6. Most Common Nonconformities seen in assessments

- Using portions of one edition of standard methods with another edition without using the most current QC.
- IDOC issues—wrong procedure, not documented, not done for each analyte in the method or not done by each analyst
- Not enough standard concentration levels in 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)
- Not documenting pH of samples at sample receiving.

7. 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 for survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D986KQC>

IL ELAP Staff:

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Please contact any of the IL ELAP team if you have questions and/or concerns.

EPA.LAU@illinois.gov

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

Explanation of PT Failures Report

Analyte	Matrix	Technology	Method	45/15/7month/Last	Study 1	Study 2	Study 3
Alkalinity as CaCO₃							
Potable Water							
OverallScore	***Fail***	TITR	SM 2320 B-1997				
Study 1	WSCHEM-093019B	Open Date	9/30/2019	3	5	0.26	6.36
		End Date	10/3/2019				
Study 2	WSCHEM-25715	Open Date	9/6/2019				
		End Date	9/25/2019	19	8	0.89	
Study 3	WSCHEM-0719	Open Date	7/15/2019				
		End Date	8/29/2019	45			

PT Grade	OK	TITR
45day	OK	
7day	**Warning**	
Study score	**Warning**	

PT Grade	OK
45day	OK
7day	OK
13Month	OK
13Month1-2	OK
Study score	OK

PT Grade	**Warning**
45day	OK
7Month	OK
7Month1-2	OK
7Month2-3	OK
Study score	**Warning**

- Study 1 is the most recent study received by IL ELAP
- Study 2 is the study received before Study 1
- Study 3 is the study received before Study 2
- Studies are listed on the left with the name of the study followed by the dates
- After the study dates are the calculated timings between dates that IL ELAP uses
- The first calculated number is the number of dates the study was open
- The second calculated number is the number of days since the previous study (must be greater than 7)
- The third calculated number is the number of months since the previous study (typically between 5-7 months)
- Inside the boxes:
 - PT Grade is the result of the study for that method/analyte combination
 - Ok means acceptable grade
 - **Warning** means unacceptable grade
 - 45day is the check on the length of the study
 - Ok means less than 45 days
 - **Warning** means greater than 45 days
 - 7day is the length of time between studies.
 - Ok means greater than 7 days
 - **Warning** means less than 7 days
 - 13Month
 - Ok means 2 studies in last 13 months
 - **Warning** means not 2 studies in last 13 months
 - 13Month1-2
 - Ok means 2 studies in 13 months between studies 1-2
 - **Warning** means not 2 studies in 13 months between studies 1-2
 - 7Month
 - Ok means a study in last 7 months
 - **Warning** means no study in last 7 months
 - 7Month1-2
 - Ok means less 7 months between studies 1-2
 - **Warning** means greater than 7 months between studies 1-2
 - 7Month2-3
 - Ok means less 7 months between studies 2-3
 - **Warning** means greater than 7 months between studies 2-3

- *Study Score*
 - *Ok means the study has no failures*
 - ***Warning** means one of the criteria looked at in the box failed*
- *If a study score is listed as **Warning** for 2 of the last 3 studies received by IL ELAP, it will show up on this report*
- *“Last” (heading before Study 1) means amount of time since the last/most recent recorded study (in months)*

Primary Laboratories and Accreditation Officer

Laboratory Name	Accreditation Officer
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	Shirlene South
Teklab Inc-Bluff Road	Shirlene South
Lake County Environmental	Shirlene South
Culligan Analytical Lab	Shirlene South
Test, Inc.	Shirlene South
Pace Analytical- McHenry	Shirlene South
Environmental Monitoring	Shirlene South
MWRDGC Stickney	Shirlene South
Suburban Laboratories	Shirlene South
MWRDGC Industrial Waste Lab (IWL)	Shirlene South
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