



State Water Resources Control Board

March 3, 2016

John C. Rivers
NPDES Permitted Facility
123 Clearwater Lane
Anytown, CA 91234

SUBJECT: DMR-QA STUDY 36

Hello John Rivers,

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (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. This is under the authority of Section 308 of the Clean Water Act 33 United States Code section 1318 (CWA 33 U.S.C § 1318). 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. Permittees are responsible for having their on-site and contract laboratory(ies) test wastewater analytes that are both in their NPDES permit and included in Study 36. **Participation in this Study is mandatory.**

In California there are two options to satisfy the requirements of the DMR-QA Study: The Discharger can obtain and analyze a DMR-QA sample; or the Discharger can submit the results of the most recent Water Pollution (WP) Performance Evaluation Study from their on-site and contract laboratory(ies). Both DMR-QA and WP testing samples may be purchased by accredited proficiency testing providers. A list of providers accompanies this notification letter. The Discharger shall submit annually the results of the DMR-QA Study or the results of the most recent WP Performance Evaluation Study to Ms. Renee Spears, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)'s Quality Assurance Officer. It is your responsibility to submit to the SWRCB Quality Assurance Officer the Study test results from vendors; and onsite and outside laboratories that perform work associated with your NPDES permit **by December 31, 2016**. The Quality Assurance Officer will then send the DMR-QA Study results or the results of the most recent Water Pollution Performance Evaluation Study which satisfy the DMR-QA Study 36 requirement to U.S. EPA's DMR-QA Coordinator and Regional Quality Assurance Manager.

The key components of the study are listed below.

1. The Study period is the entire twelve months of 2016. However, participation earlier in the year would allow for extra time in the event that sample retesting is necessary for corrective action purposes.
2. Laboratories may use the same test data that is normally generated under their laboratory certification obligations in order to satisfy the requirements of the DMR-QA Study 36.

3. Please request that each contract laboratory used by your facility sends you a copy of the evaluated results for your records.
4. Please submit all data files/reports from the approved Proficiency Testing (PT) vendors and laboratories to the SWRCB Quality Assurance Officer. The vendor will provide electronic data files (CSV) in the form of the standard EPA data file transfer protocols for uploading into the SWRCB database for this study. As the NPDES permittee, you are responsible for ensuring the testing data is received by the SWRCB.
5. Please inform all PT vendors to submit a pdf copy of the evaluated results to the SWRCB to the e-mail address listed below.

If any results are graded "Not Acceptable," you must submit a corrective action report to the SWRCB. As the NPDES permittee, you are responsible for ensuring that a corrective action report is prepared and sent to the SWRCB QA Officer. This consists of a follow up with the laboratory(ies) to determine the cause of the deficiency and describe the corrective action that will take place to prevent future occurrences. Additionally, retesting for the analytes that were graded "Not Acceptable" is required. Failure to respond can lead to laboratory decertification.

The SWRCB currently has the following information on file for your facility. Please review this information and notify us of any corrections via my e-mail address or by telephone within 30 calendar days from receipt of this notification. Please list the laboratory(ies) that you use for the DMR-QA Study 36 testing and their corresponding certificate/accreditation numbers associated with this NPDES permit. If your laboratory and your contract laboratories hold both Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (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(ies) which reports data for your NPDES permit number including the on-site laboratory. This ID is found on the data report sent to you or your contract laboratory(ies) by the vendor.

Permit number: NPDES CA1234567
 Contact person: John Rivers
 Mailing address: 123 Clearwater Lane, Anytown, CA 91234
 Phone number: (012) 345-6789
 E-mail address: Johncrivers1@cleaneffluent.com

LAB NAME	ELAP #	NELAP #	EPA ID #

Please contact me if you have any questions about this Study.

Thank you,



Renee Spears
Senior Environmental Scientist Specialist-QA Officer
Office of Information Management & Analysis
State Water Resources Control Board
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Sacramento, CA 95814
P.O. Box 100- Sacramento, CA 95812
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Attachment

FELICIA MARCUS, CHAIR | THOMAS HOWARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 | Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, Ca 95812-0100 | www.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 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 (866) 942-2978 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	
Sigma Aldrich RTC, 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 mark.hammersla@nsilabsolutions.com www.nsilabsolutions.com	X	X	