



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Division of Water Quality

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Director

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Governor

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Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 14, 2013

TO: North Carolina Wastewater/Groundwater Certified Laboratories

FROM: Dana Satterwhite, Environmental Program Supervisor

SUBJECT: 2013 Proficiency Testing (PT) Requirements and Timetables

In accordance with the provisions of the North Carolina Administrative Code 15A NCAC 2H .0805, all certified laboratories are required to analyze Proficiency Testing (PT) samples at least annually to maintain certification. A PT sample must be analyzed by each parameter method technology for which your laboratory holds certification. **NOTE: The proficiency testing deadline is September 30, 2013. We must receive the graded results, directly from the vendor, in this office by the September 30, 2013 deadline.** Be cautioned against using the September PT studies because the results may not arrive in our office before the September 30, 2013 deadline. If not performing a quick turnaround type sample, July studies will likely be the latest monthly study that will meet the deadline. Failure to report the required PT results by the September 30th deadline will be considered as a first unacceptable result for certification purposes. Any required remedial PTs must be analyzed within **90 days** from the date the study results were issued by the accredited PT provider. Additional PT sample results submitted voluntarily at any time during the year will be graded. Failure to complete the required PT samples within the allotted time frames may result in enforcement action in accordance with 15A NCAC 02H .0807.

All facilities in North Carolina remain exempt from the US EPA NPDES DMR-QA PT Studies. Certified Laboratories do not have to follow the DMR-QA Study timetable (usually May to August). PTs may be ordered any time during the Proficiency Testing Calendar Year (January 1 to September 30) from approved vendors.

For the first time this year, we have added aqueous and non-aqueous matrices to your certificate attachment. At this time, we will not require PTs specific to each matrix. A single PT in either matrix shall suffice for demonstration of proficiency for that parameter method technology. A specific matrix PT is required only in cases where a method is matrix-specific (e.g., EPA 9071B).

Proficiency testing requirements are outlined in a document titled *Proficiency Testing Requirements, Revision 1.2*, which can be found on the Laboratory Certification website at:

Field Laboratories <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/lab/cert/field/pt>
Non-field Laboratories <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/lab/cert/nonfield/pt>

A hard or electronic copy may also be requested from this office.

The NC WW/GW LC address is **1623 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1623**. When completing the reporting forms (either hard copy or online), please ensure that the correct address is clearly identified for results to be reported to this office. The laboratory's EPA Lab Code and the State ID number (this may be the lab certification number assigned by this program) must also be included to ensure proper credit. If you do not have or know your EPA Lab Code, contact this office.

We hope that this will answer many questions that you may have regarding North Carolina's program requirements. If you have additional questions or concerns, you may contact your assigned auditor. Thank you for your continued cooperation and participation in the WW/GW Laboratory Certification Program of the State of North Carolina.