



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Dexter R. Matthews, Director

Division of Waste Management

Michael F. Easley, Governor
William G. Ross Jr., Secretary

October 27, 2006

To: SW Director/County Manager/Consultant/Laboratory

From: NC DENR-DWM, Solid Waste Section

Re: New Guidelines for Electronic Submittal of Environmental Monitoring Data

The Solid Waste Section receives and reviews a wide variety of environmental monitoring data from permitted solid waste management facilities, including the results from groundwater and surface water analyses, leachate samples, methane gas readings, potentiometric measurements, and corrective action data. We are in the process of developing a database to capture the large volume of data submitted by facilities.

To maintain the integrity of the database, it is critical that facilities, consultants, and laboratories work with the Solid Waste Section to ensure that environmental samples are collected and analyzed properly with the resulting data transferred to the Solid Waste Section in an accurate manner.

In order to better serve the public and to expedite our review process, the Solid Waste Section is requesting specific formatting for environmental monitoring data submittals for all solid waste management facilities.

Effective, December 1, 2006, please submit a Solid Waste Environmental Monitoring Data Form in addition to your environmental monitoring data report. This form will be sent in lieu of your current cover letter to the Solid Waste Section. The Solid Waste Environmental Monitoring Data Form must be filled out completely, signed, and stamped with a Board Certified North Carolina Geologist License Seal.

The solid waste environmental monitoring data form will include the following:

1. Contact Information
2. Facility Name
3. Facility Permit Number
4. Facility Address
5. Monitoring Event Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
6. Water Quality Status: Monitoring, Detection Monitoring, or Assessment Monitoring
7. Type of Data Submitted: Groundwater Monitoring Wells, Groundwater Potable Wells, Leachate, Methane Gas, or Corrective Action Data
8. Notification of Exceedance of Groundwater, Surface Water, or Methane Gas (in table form)
9. Signature
10. North Carolina Geologist Seal

Most of these criteria are already being included or can be added with little effort. The Solid Waste Environmental Monitoring Data Form can be downloaded from our website:

http://www.wastenotnc.org/swhome/enviro_monitoring.asp.

The Solid Waste Section is also requesting a new format for monitoring wells, potable wells, surface water sampling locations, and methane probes. This format is essential in the development and maintenance of the database. The Solid Waste Section is requesting that each sampling location at all North Carolina solid waste management facilities have its own unique identification number. We are simply asking for the permit number to be placed directly in front of the sampling location number (example: 9901-MW1 = Permit Number 99-01 and Monitoring Well MW-1). No changes will need to be made to the well tags, etc. This unique identification system will enable us to accurately report data not only to NCDENR, but to the public as well. We understand that this new identification system will take some time to implement, but we feel that this will be beneficial to everyone involved in the long term.

Additionally, effective December 1, 2006, the Practical Quantitation Limits (PQLs) established in 1994 will change. The Solid Waste Section is requiring that all solid waste management facilities use the new Solid Waste Reporting Limits (SWRL) for all groundwater analyses by a North Carolina Certified Laboratory. Laboratories must also report any detection of a constituent even it is detected below the new SWRL (e.g., J values where the constituent was detected above the detection limit, but below the quantitation limit).

PQLs are technology-based analytical levels that are considered achievable using the referenced analytical method. The PQL is considered the lowest concentration of a contaminant that the lab can accurately detect and quantify. PQLs provided consistency and available numbers that were achievable by the given analytical method. However, PQLs are not health-based, and analytical instruments have improved over the years resulting in lower achievable PQLs for many of the constituents. As a result, the Solid Waste Section has established the SWRLs as the new reporting limits eliminating the use of the PQLs.

We would also like to take this opportunity to encourage electronic submittal of the reports. This option is intended to save resources for both the public and private sectors. The Solid Waste Section will accept the entire report including narrative text, figures, tables, and maps on CD-ROM. The CD-ROM submittal shall contain a CD-ROM case and both CD-ROM and the case shall be labeled with the site name, site address, permit number, and the monitoring event date (MM/DD/YYYY). The files may be a .pdf, .txt, .csv, .xls, or .doc type. Also, analytical lab data should be reported in an .xls file. We have a template for analytical lab data available on the web at the address listed above.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call (919) 508-8400. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this matter.