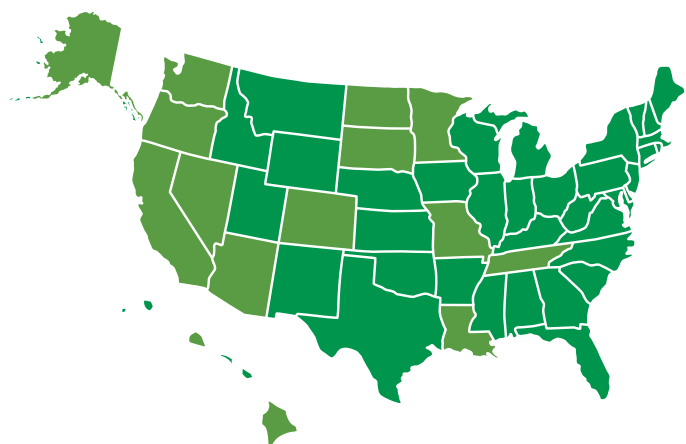


The Environment Industry Report 2015

Highlights of the most important headlines from
the EPA, TNI and each State Accrediting Body



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* The following bulletins are the latest and/or the most important headlines found on each State Accrediting Body's website. We have pulled all the information and categorized it based on the State it applies too. Please use this information as a reference only and remember it's always best to visit your State's website or call the Accrediting Body for the most up to date information.

2015 Method Update Rule Clean Water Act for the Analysis of Effluent

The Clean Water Act requires the EPA to establish testing procedures for analysis of pollutants which includes developing, reviewing and promulgating testing methods, as well as developing alternatives to existing methods. Since getting new methods into effect can be too resourceful and time consuming they are periodically combined with modifications of existing methods into what is known as a proposed “Method Update Rule” (MUR).

The EPA Proposal:

- Revision of agency analytical methods.
- Revised methods published by voluntary consensus standard bodies, such as ASTM International and the Standard Methods Committee .
- Methods positively reviewed under the Alternate Test Procedures (ATP) program.
- Changes to elucidate the EPA approval procedure for nationwide and limited use of ATPs.
- Procedural amendments for the determination of the method detection limit (MDL).

The Proposed Changes:

- Provide more flexibility to the regulated community, improve data quality, and update the methods, to keep current with technological advances and innovations.
- Clarify the process for requesting limited use or nationwide review of ATPs.
- Address laboratory contamination issues related to the MDL and better account for intra-laboratory variability.

[*View the Federal Register Notice >>*](#)

[*View the Fact Sheet >>*](#)

Updated Fields of Proficiency Testing Tables Reminder

The NELAC Institute (TNI) released updated Fields of Proficiency Testing (FoPT) tables for the approved Non-Potable Water Chemistry and Microbiology analytes for proficiency testing.

The new requirements went into effect on March 16, 2015.



Please review the updated tables for any changes that may affect your laboratory's proficiency testing requirements.

[View Non-Potable Water FoPT >>](#)

Notification for future FoPT Tables Updates

Subscribe your email address with TNI to receive a notification whenever there is a future FoPT Table update.

[Subscribe Here >>](#)

Alaska

Reporting Requirements Memorandum (June 22, 2015)

- Alaska certified drinking water labs are required to report ALL tests performed from a Public Water System to the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).
- The timeframe for reporting all results remains the same with the exception of Nitrate Exceedance and Positive Coliform, which is shorter. The specific timeframes for reporting positive coliform and MCL exceedance must be followed.
- There are many purposes for coliform tests - samples submitted to a lab on behalf of a PWS must be accompanied by "purposed" identified by the submitter.
- Any sample submitted with a PWS number (PWS#) on the form must be reported to the DEC.
- If a sample from the PWS is submitted, even without the PWS# on the form, it must also be reported to the DEC.

[View the Memorandum >>](#)

Return of Services at the Environmental Health Laboratory (July 11, 2015)

The fiscal year 2016 budget has been resolved and as a result the Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Environmental Health, Environmental Health Laboratory (EHL) is resuming testing operations. Please visit the Alaska Division of Environmental Health to find the normal operation schedule.

("State of Alaska Division of Environmental Health" 2015)

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Arizona

Information Update (April 13, 2015)

- Compliance testing by all three Colilert version (Regular Colilert, Colilert 18 and Colilert QuantiTray) can be performed under the single licensure title of Colilert Method by SM 9223B.
- Extending the holding time to 7 days for sulfide analysis using prepackaged reagents from HACH is only permitted by referencing EPA methods for sulfide testing.

Director Approvals

- The Regular Colitag method license also covers the modified version for determination of Total Coliform and E.coli - a separate license is not needed for the modified method.
- EPA Performance Specification PS-12B, Analysis of Vapor Phase mercury Emissions from Stationary Sources Using a Sorbent Trap Monitoring System.
- EPA Method 1613B in drinking water
 - Change in extraction solvent from toluene to acetone/dichloromethane.
 - Change in the detector from HRMS to GC/MS/MS; all positive hits must be confirmed by HRMS.

[View The Full Information Report >>](#)

("Arizona Department of Health Services" 2015)

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* published date not available

California

New State Website Address*

Make sure to update your web browser bookmarks!

The current address is http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/labs/index.shtml

Important Change in Nitrate Reporting Requirements

California regulations regarding nitrate reporting units for drinking water has changed. The revision specifies that nitrate laboratory results must be expressed as “as nitrogen”.

[View the Announcement >>](#)

ELTAC By-Law Draft

The Environmental Laboratory Technical Advisory Committee (ELTAC) By-Laws will be re-written as part of an initiative to redefine the ELTAC objectives and increase its contributions to the program functions.

[View The By-Law Draft >>](#)

(“California Department of Public Health” 2015)

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Colorado

Drinking Water Electronic Compliance Submittals*

The Water Quality Control Division has changed the way they accept submittals for electronic compliance data and other information.

- As of June 15, 2015, the drinking water email address (cdphe.drinkingwater@state.co.us) no longer accepts compliance submittals.
- To submit compliance data and other information electronically use the new [Drinking Water Portal](#).

For more information on the Drinking Water Portal view the [memorandum](#).

Clean Water Fee Structure Discussion*

A [memorandum](#) was sent to all clean water fee process stakeholders discussing the Water Quality Fee Transparency Act bill that updates and organizes the current fees into sectors.

July 2015: The division began the enhanced fiscal tracking.

February 2016: Division will report to stakeholders and legislators about the fiscal analysis.

Check back [here](#) for further updates.

(“Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment” 2015)

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* published date not available

Georgia

Notice of Application: NPDES Permit to Discharge Treated Wastewater in Georgia Waters (July 16, 2015)

NPDES permits are valid for a maximum of five years and prior to expiration, a new application must be submitted and evaluated. Antidegradation analysis will be conducted (as applicable) for the proposal of any new or expanded point source discharges.

A full explanation of the Notice of Application and a list of all the applicants can read in the Public Notice

[View Georgia's NPDES Public Notice >>](#)

("Georgia Environmental Protection Division" 2015)

Louisiana

Implementing the Method Update Rule*

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality plans to take the following steps to follow the EPA's Method Update rule taken effect on May 18, 2015

- 1) Accredited and in-house laboratories submitting data to the department are expected to take steps to meet the requirements of the rule; in the case of accredited laboratories, applications to amend the scope of accreditation must be submitted and quality system documents must be revised as needed so that the laboratories will be compliant within a year or by the time of their next biennial assessment (whichever comes first).
- 2) The department will accept data based on the previous Method Update Rule (2007) up to but not beyond a two year period ending June 18, 2014.

("Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality," 2015)

* published date not available

Michigan

New Water Quality Testing to begin in Michigan Beaches (June 18, 2015)

As the first state to monitor beaches to address potential public health concerns, Michigan will be assessing water quality using a new, rapid testing method, known as qualitative polymerase chain reaction, for assessing E. coli DNA in beach water samples.

[View the Full Article >>](#)

DEQ Releases Air Rules to Keep Michigan Clean, Clear and Competitive (July 16, 2015)

The Department of Quality's (DEQ) new proposal includes criteria for defining Toxic Air Contaminants that lists 756 air pollutants, while omitting low-toxicity non-carcinogens and other substances without scientific toxicity information. This revised proposal will allow the DEQ to add substances to the list of 756 pollutants as new science toxicity information becomes available.

The draft rule revisions include:

1. Improved public transparency and opportunities for public engagement
2. Exemptions from the Toxic Air Contaminants regulations for engines that burn clean fuels and meet other requirements
3. Clarification of an existing rule to simplify the permitting process for facilities making a modification that involves insignificant changes in Toxic Air Contaminants emissions

[View The Full Article >>](#)

("Michigan Department of Environmental Quality," 2015)

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Missouri

Revised Total Coliform Rule Rulemaking

The departments held five stakeholder meetings throughout the state to gather input on the draft Revised Total Coliform Rule. A published document of the Regulatory Impact Report for this rulemaking can be found [here >>](#)

Anticipated Schedule

Date	Action Item
Aug. 1, 2015	Target Filing Date for proposed rulemaking
Sept. 1, 2015	Target Missouri Register publication date for proposed rulemaking
Sept. - Oct. 2015	Public comment period and public hearing
Nov. 2015 - Feb 2016	Orders of Rulemaking and final rule development
Mar. 31, 2016	Rules become effective.

("Missouri Department of Natural Resources," 2015)

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* published date not available

Montana

Numeric Nutrient Criteria*

The EPA approves DEQ's numeric nutrient standards intended control excessive nutrient (nitrogen and phosphorus) pollution in Montana's streams, rivers and lakes. This will help assure a level of water quality that will protect the beneficial uses of these waterbodies.

[View The Full Article >>](#)

("Montana Department of Environmental Quality," 2015)

Nevada

2015-2016 Certification Application*

Application process for certification with the State of Nevada starts August 1, 2015.
2014-2015 certifications expire July 31, 2015.

For details on how to apply click [here >>](#)

("Nevada Division of Environmental Protection," 2015)

Preservation for EPA 624 Volatiles Update*

Footnote 5 in Table II in both Method Update Rules (dated 3/12/07 & 4/17/12) applies only to cyanide.

To view the memorandum issued by the State of Nevada, please click [here >>](#)

Local Certified Labs That Analyze Drinking Water*

Routine domestic water analyses are typically requested by private well owners for their own drinking water quality information. Read the full article to learn about the law, who is certified to conduct this analysis and what are the typical analytes to be tested

[View The Full Article >>](#)

* published date not available

North Carolina

2015 Proposed Rule Laboratory Certification Revision*

The Laboratory Certification Rule has been under review by the DENR DWR Water Sciences Section with the intention of

- Appending the list of certificate parameters
- Clarifying existing legislative Rule or providing additional quality control requirements where a Rule does not exist
- Reducing regulatory and financial burden to laboratories

The proposed DRAFT Rule Revision can be found [here >>](#)

Alternatively you can view a presentation that highlights the major changes [here >>](#)

[View Full Article >>](#)

("North Carolina Department of Environmental and Natural Resources," 2015)

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North Dakota

Water Analysis Certification*

Laboratories that analyze water samples to determine compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act must be certified by the North Dakota Department of Health. Effective January 1, 2015, the North Dakota Environmental Laboratory Certification Program (NDELCP) will issue certification for Clean Water Act methods versions only as listed in the tables at 40 CFR Part 136.3. All voluntary consensus standard body methods such as Standard Methods and AOAC must have the edition or year of approval listed along with the method description.

("North Dakota Department of Health" 2014)

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Oregon

Fecal Coliforms by Colilert-18 for NPDES*

The U.S. EPA Region 10 will accept Alternate Testing Procedure (ATP) applications from individual laboratory facilities and will authorize its use on a case by case basis. Laboratories should obtain their ATP approval and submit a copy of the approval letter when they first submit Fecal Coliform results using Colilert-18.

- [EPA Microbiological Alternate Test Procedure \(ATP\) Protocol for Drinking Water, Ambient Water, Wastewater, and Sewage Sludge Monitoring Methods \(pdf\)](#)
- [EPA Office of Water CWA ATP Application Completeness Checklist \(pdf\)](#)
- [Colilert-18 Fecal Coliform Protocol Addendum \(pdf\)](#)

("Oregon Health Authority," 2015)

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* published date not available

South Carolina

Selected Ion Monitoring (SIM) Analysis Certification*

SIM for EPA Method 8260B (1,4-dioxane), EPA Method 8270D (PAHs) and Pentachlorophenol is being offered for certification when acceptable lower quantitation limits can't be achieved in the full scan mode. Due to the concern of false positives with SIM methods, one quantitation and two quantifying ions must be monitored for each analyte at a minimum.

See the full story to learn more about SIM and how to seek certification

[View Full Article >>](#)

("South Carolina Department of Health and Environment Control" 2014)

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Tennessee

Revision to Tennessee's Use Classification for Surface Waters – Update (June 22, 2015)

Due to the published final version of the Clean Water Act rule regarding waters under federal jurisdiction between the EPA and U.S Corps of Engineers, also known as "Waters of the U.S., which has direct bearing on Tennessee's program and the previous state rulemaking, the TDEC is no longer moving forward with the revisions.

("Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation " 2015)

[View Full Article >>](#)

EPA Method 200.5*

Effective on December 01, 2014, EPA Method 200.5 was added to the Drinking Water and Non-Potable Water Fields of Accreditation (FoAs). From this date on, laboratories submitting data analyzed by this method need to be accredited or risk having their data refused by the TCEQ. The analytes offered for this method will be:

[View EPA Method 200.5 Analytes >>](#)

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Virginia

Drinking Water Certification Fees 2015-2016*

As of May 1, 2015, the new drinking water laboratory certification fees have gone into effect.

[View Certification Fees >>](#)

("Virginia Department of General Services" 2014)

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* published date not available

Washington

New Policy Regarding Proficiency Testing Reporting*

Washington – Department of Ecology (DOE), Laboratory Accreditation Unit, sent an email to all WA-DOE accredited laboratories reminding them of a new policy requiring that laboratory proficiency testing (PT) data be submitted via an electronic data deliverable (EDD).

For your PT data to be evaluated and to maintain your accreditation, your PT data must be supplied in the WA-DOE electronic format to the Laboratory Accreditation Unit by your PT provider.

("State of Washington Department of Ecology" 2015)
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Wyoming

New State Website Address*

Make sure to update your web browser bookmarks!
The current address is <http://deq.wyoming.gov/>

("Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality" 2015)
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* published date not available

* published date not available