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Dear Laboratory Manager:

SUBJECT: USEPA Methods Update Rule (MUR)

The USEPA has issued a final MUR that revises the list of approved analyses and sampling procedures in wastewater, drinking water and biosolids regulations. On March 12, 2007 the USEPA published in the Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 47) Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for the Analysis of Pollutants Under the Clean Water Act; National Primary Drinking Water Regulations; and National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations; Analysis and Sampling Procedures; Final Rule. On Monday, March 26, 2007 the USEPA also published in the Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 57) Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for the Analysis of Pollutants; Analytical Methods for Biological Pollutants in Wastewater and Sewage Sludge: Final Rule. These rules approve new and revised methods for inclusion in 40 CFR Part 136 141 and 143.

To provide guidance to businesses certified using the NJ – Environmental Laboratory Certification Program or accredited using the NJ – National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program the following attachments are included with this letter.

- Attachment 1 – Table 1-List of Chemical and Biological Test Procedures Removed and Alternate Approved Replacement Methods and Table 2- Replacement Options for Petroleum Hydrocarbons
- Attachment 2 – NJDEP Schedule for Responding to Methods Update Rule (MUR)
- Attachment 3 – Submittal Requirements for Requesting Changes to Certification and Accreditation Status

Attachment 1 provides in Table 1 a summary of the methods that the MUR removed from use and the analytical methods that are now currently approved for use. Additionally, Attachment 1 provides in Table 2 a summary of the methods that can now be used to test for petroleum hydrocarbons. It is meant to provide guidance for selecting methods to replace Method 418.1.

Attachment 2 provides the NJDEP's schedule for responding to the MUR. Over the next several months the NJDEP will implement the changes given in the MUR and businesses involved in environmental measurements should be aware of the following key dates in the implementation schedule.

- August 31, 2007 – Last day to request certification or accreditation for MUR deleted parameters/method references
- September 30, 2007 – Site Remediation Program will not accept Method 418.1 data generated from the analysis of all matrices sampled after this date.
- December 31, 2007 – All analyses conducted after this date for the Water Programs to be done with MUR parameters/method references.

Attachment 3 provides a summary of those items businesses must submit to the NJDEP's Office of Quality Assurance (OQA) in order to modify their certification/accreditation status and/or to maintain certifications granted for FY2007. Applications and instructions for completing applications can be found on the OQA's web site at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/oqa/>.

Complete copies of the Federal Register Notices of the MUR may be obtained and reviewed on the USEPA's web site at:

<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-WATER/2007/March/Day-12/w1073.pdf>
<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-WATER/2007/March/Day-26/w1455.pdf>.

If you have any questions or need further information please contact the OQA by visiting its web site at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/oqa/> or by telephone at (609) 292-3950. Email addresses of staff can found on the web site by clicking the "OQA Staff Directory" tab.

Sincerely,

Joseph F. Aiello, Chief