



State of New Jersey

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

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CATHERINE R. MCCABE
Commissioner

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

November 20, 2020

CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Attention Laboratory Manager:

RE: January Water Supply PT Study

As a participant in the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP) your business is required to acceptably analyze two out of three Proficiency Testing (PT) Samples for each field of proficiency testing within an 18-month period; and must participate in PT Studies approximately every six months.

Businesses are required to purchase PT Samples from a PT Provider accredited by a TNI approved Proficiency Testing Provider Accreditor (PTPA). Not all PT Providers are accredited for all parameters therefore you must ensure the provider you choose has the required accreditation prior to obtaining your PT samples. A list of accredited PT Providers can be found in Attachment A of this letter. It can also be found at <http://www.nelac-institute.org/ptproviders.php>.

For the January Water Supply Study businesses are required to purchase and analyze PT Samples for the parameters given on the attached "SDW Parameter Table" (Attachment B) in which they hold New Jersey Accreditation and noted on the TNI FoPT table. **Bold parameters on the enclosed table are parameters that are required above and beyond the FoPT. Businesses must successfully analyze one PT sample a year in order to maintain eligibility to report data to the State of New Jersey for these parameters.** Please also note the following:

- Businesses must assure that for the January Water Supply Study the PT sample(s) are not analyzed less than 7 days, or more than 7 months from the prior sample. Businesses must ensure they request that the PT providers submit the results to the NJDEP OQA prior to the close of the study.
- The PT Sample report must contain the name and or ID # of the laboratory as it appears on your Annual Certified Parameter List (ACPL). Any discrepancies in name or ID # will cause the rejection of the data and will require the analysis of a make-up study.

- Businesses must report the PT Sample result with the method in which it holds certification. **If a business reports a PT Sample result with a method other than that in which it holds certification it will be evaluated as failed to submit results and therefore “Unacceptable” and will require the analysis of a make-up study.**
- Businesses must ensure they request that the PT providers submit the results to the NJDEP OQA prior to the close of the study.
- PT results reported by a preparation method and not the laboratory’s determinative method will be considered a failure to submit and therefore “Unacceptable” and will require the analysis of a make-up study.
- An amended report from the PT Sample Provider will not be accepted by the OQA.
- Raw data records will not be accepted or reviewed to use as justification for data reporting errors.
- **No PT results submitted by your laboratory may be analyzed by another laboratory and no results shall be revealed to or discussed with any other laboratory prior to the close of the study.**
- For PT Sample results that are found “Unacceptable”, other enforcement actions may be taken by the NJDEP in addition to the requirement for analyzing samples in a make-up study.
- For any parameters not detected in the PT Sample the laboratory must report a result of less than the laboratory’s Reporting Limit (< RL) to get credit for the analysis of the parameter. **Only non-detects (below the laboratory’s RL) shall be reported as a less than value. If a laboratory reports a less than result for anything greater than its RL no credit will be given. Also, if a non-detect is not reported as a less than value no credit will be received for the parameter (a result of zero will not be accepted).**

For the January Water Supply Study businesses are required to analyze PT Samples for each analyte by each method in which they hold New Jersey certification. For example, if a laboratory is certified for Aluminum by USEPA 200.7 and Standard Methods (SM) 3120 the laboratory must **analyze and pass** a PT sample for both USEPA 200.7 and SM 3120 to retain certification for both methods. **For the four trihalomethane analytes, a laboratory must acceptably analyze a PT for each individual analyte to get credit for that analyte. However, if a laboratory fails any one or more of the analytes the laboratory will be required to acceptably analyze a make-up study for all four of the individual analytes.**

Additionally, PT Samples are to be entered into the sample receipt log as samples and tracked through the analytical process as routine environmental samples. PT Samples received as ampules are to be diluted according to the PT Provider’s instructions. The diluted ampule becomes the routine environmental sample, which is then added to a routine sample batch. PT Samples shall not be analyzed multiple times unless routine environmental samples are analyzed multiple times. Results from multiple analyses must be calculated in the same manner as routine environmental samples. The type, composition, concentration and frequency of quality control samples analyzed with the PT Samples shall be the same as with that used for environmental samples. Also, initial and continuing calibrations shall be the same frequency as that used with routine environmental samples.

If you have any questions please contact Rachel Ellis at 609-292-3950.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michele M. Potter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Michele M. Potter
Manager

Enclosure(s): Attachments A & B

