Confirmatory (303(d) or Sub-list 5) Sampling for Impaired Waters

Certain waters of the state are identified as "use impaired" due to exceedances of the Surface Water Quality Standards. Water bodies designated as "impaired" are listed in the NJDEP's Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report, which is submitted to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) every two years. Within the Integrated Report, "impaired" water bodies are listed on Sub-list 5 (formerly 303(d)). The data used to classify these waters may be: (1) outdated and not reflective of current water quality conditions or (2) may have a positive bias due to older sample collection and analysis techniques now known to be inappropriate for ambient surface water metals monitoring. Evaluation monitoring, using newer collection procedures based on EPA's method 1669, and "Clean Methods Techniques – to be used when sampling for trace metals in aqueous samples, NJDEPE, 1993", in addition to updated laboratory analyses creates a metals database accurate to at least 1 part per billion (ppb). This allows for assessment relative to NJ's Surface Water Quality Standards. The determination regarding which sites and which parameters are being monitored is made by staff from the Water Monitoring and Standards' Bureau of Water Quality Standards and Assessment and the Division of Watershed Management's Bureau of Environmental Analysis and Restoration (BEAR).

Conventional parameters are being monitored concurrently with metals sampling where applicable. These data are used to expand the general water quality characterization of the waterbodies and will aid in determining boundaries and parameters for future Total Maximum Daily Load Studies. All monitoring activities are conducted under targeted flow conditions (baseflow and/or elevated flow).

