

Accreditation Policy Hurricane Katrina

Issued September 8, 2005

On August 30, 2005 the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (the Department, LDEQ) issued a Declaration of Emergency and Administrative Order with regards to widespread damage caused by Hurricane Katrina. An Amended Declaration of Emergency and Administrative Order was issued on September 3, 2005.

All identified analytical needs for the State are currently being met by accredited laboratories. The Department evaluates its analytical needs on a daily basis. LDEQ will not issue a general waiver of the accreditation requirement at this time. Laboratories seeking to assist with Hurricane Katrina sample analyses should contact the Louisiana Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (LELAP) of LDEQ. LELAP will review all request in an expedited manner. Each determination will be handled case-by-case. LELAP is committed to accrediting applicant laboratories expeditiously.

LELAP is recognized as a National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP) Accrediting Authority (AA) and as such is able to accredit laboratories through recognition of certifications granted from any NELAP AA. The Department's accreditation Program will make every effort to facilitate accreditation of applicant laboratories.