



## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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For Immediate Release

May 11, 2007

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### DEQ prepares for revisions to water sampling procedures

BATON ROUGE – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently made changes in the approved tests and analytical procedures under the Clean Water Act and National Drinking Water regulations. The two revisions the EPA made will affect laboratories (i.e., commercial, in-house, municipal, state and federal), as well as all facilities that have water permits.

The revisions are referred to as the Methods Update Rule and the rule grants approvals for a number of new and revised methods, and also withdraws approval for a substantial number of methods that had previously been approved.

The full text of the final rules can be found at:

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

and:

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

The water permittees affected by the final rules shall utilize the new and revised methods in accordance with the latest revision of 40 Code of Federal Regulations 136 instead of the previously approved methods. In those instances where a previously approved method is specified in a permit or application form, the newly approved method shall be used as soon as the lab offers the new method and complies with the prescribed Louisiana Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (LELAP) provisions and accreditation procedures pertaining to the new method. The water permittees and laboratories affected by the rule must convert to the new and revised methods before May 14, 2008.

DEQ has sent letters to accredited laboratories that outline the changes and to help make the transition from the old methods to the new ones. However, to ensure that the laboratories and facilities that will be affected know of the change, the department is also putting this notice on its web site and sending it to the media. The letter to the accredited laboratories can be found at:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/72/Default.aspx>.

If any facilities or laboratories have any questions or need additional information on this matter, they should contact Dr. David Boucher or Karen S. Varnado, Laboratory Services Division, LELAP, at (225) 219-9800, Aimee' Killeen, Water Permits Division at (225) 219-3073 or Gary Aydell, Water Permits Division at (225) 219-3002.