



Louisiana Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program Update

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LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

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Accreditation in Louisiana

- The only state in the US with two TNI Accrediting Bodies (Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals)
- The only state in the US offering accreditation for stack testers



About LDHH

- The elder LA member of NELAP
- Accredits laboratories under the Safe Drinking Water Act only (LELAP accredits for everything else...)
- LDHH Central Laboratory has relocated to Metairie; recovery is ongoing



LDEQ Overview

- LELAP was created in 1994 by legislation
- Program began accepting applications in 1998; since then, number of applications has leveled off to 5-10 year
- Interim accreditation ended in 2001
- Program became a NELAP accrediting authority in 2001



NELAP v. LELAP

- NELAP does not accredit stack testers; LELAP accredits stack testers
- NELAP requires records to be retained for 5 years; LELAP requires records to be retained for 10 years



NELAP v LELAP

- NELAP requires two rounds of passing proficiency test results for the addition of a method to the scope of accreditation; LELAP requires one round
- NELAP gives laboratories the option to perform supplemental proficiency tests; LELAP requires remedial proficiency tests



NELAP v LELAP

- If proficiency test samples are not available, NELAP requires the maintenance of a total quality management system; LELAP requires an analytical data package
- NELAP addresses the use of experimental proficiency tests; LELAP does not address experimental proficiency tests



At Present...

- 199 accredited facilities
- 11 applicants are pending, 6 are first-time
- 4 facilities were discredited in 2007
- 94 facilities accredited by recognition



LELAP Staff

- Veteran staff members are Cindy Gagnon and Calista Daigle
- Karen Varnado is now the QA Coordinator for the LDEQ Laboratory Services Division, and still assists with LELAP work
- New staff members are Dr. Jacqueline Prudente and Dr. Alicia Ryan
- Contractors are Environmental Quality Management and Analytical Excellence



LELAP Test Categories

- Metals
- Air Pollutants
- Classical Wet Chemistry
- Microbiology
- Biomonitoring
- Organics
- Asbestos
- Dioxins and Furans
- Radiochemistry
- Geotechnical Soil Testing
- Minor Conventional Parameters



Fees

- Application Fee: \$660
- Test Category Fee: \$330/test category
- Minor Conventional Category Fee: \$264
- Annual Surveillance and Evaluation Fee (for single category laboratory): \$330
- Proficiency test samples: to be purchased by laboratory
- Third-party contractor assessment: bill to be paid by laboratory
- All fees are non-refundable



Fee Due Dates

- Application fee: with application
- Test Category fee: when invoiced
(after assessment or after
corrective action plan is approved)
- Annual Surveillance and Evaluation
Fee: with application
- Minor Conventional Parameter fee:
with application
- Assessment fee: when invoiced



Other Deadlines

Accreditation renewal: must submit annual fee each year, application with application fee every three years

Proficiency testing: must participate twice a year, every six months

Assessment by LELAP: due every two years unless fixed laboratory moves, then 30 days after move



LELAP Laboratory Assessments

- Scheduled after initial application or within 90 days of accreditation anniversary
- Assessors are drawn from LELAP staff or contractors' staff
- All NELAP accredited laboratories must bear the cost of a contractor assessment
- Number of assessors depends on complexity of assessment



Proficiency Test Requirements

- Proficiency tests are required twice a year as available.
- If proficiency tests are not available, laboratory must provide an analytical data package for each method.



Stack Tester Accreditation

- All stack testers working in the state must have LELAP accreditation
- Methods include 40 CFR 60 Appendix A, American Society for Testing and Materials, Gas Producers Association, and National Council for Air and Stream Improvement
- Field methods as defined in LAC 33:1.4503 are excluded



Stack Tester Assessments

- LDEQ accreditation program has two components—field and home base
- Home base assessment and field assessment scheduled no more than 5 weeks apart
- Field assessment may be active or static
- Static field assessment may be held at home base or at LDEQ laboratory



Stack Tester Proficiency Testing

- Air Liquide is the only approved proficiency test provider for LELAP
- Environmental Resource Associates and Wibby Environmental are developing proficiency tests for air emissions methods.



Future of LELAP

- Currently revising SOP for revised stack test policies and revised exit debriefing policies
- Planning outreach program for laboratories in Louisiana—"Accreditation 101"
- Implementing Intensive Management and Priority Management for facilities with unacceptable corrective action plans
- New eNewsletter



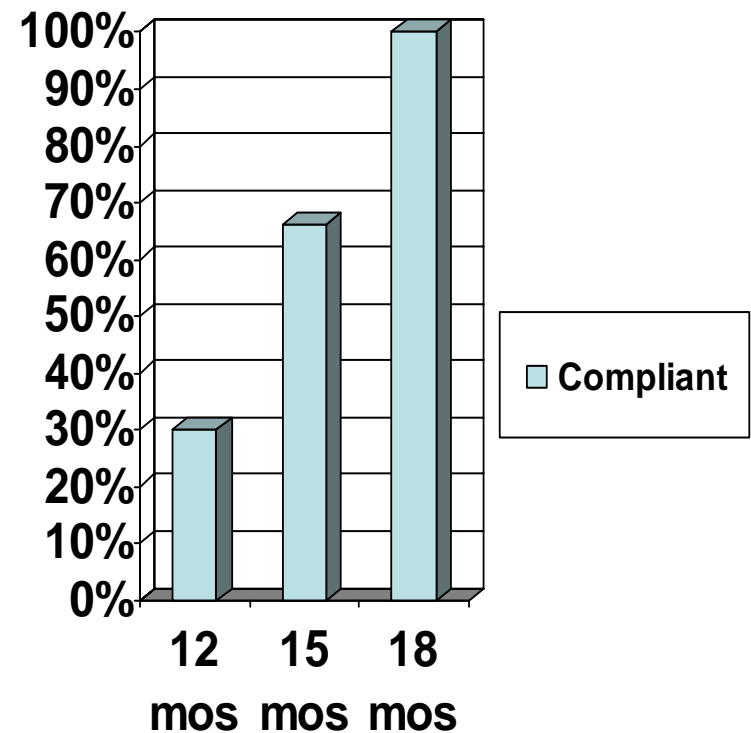
Future of LELAP

- Telecommuting policy approved, implementation on trial basis
- Evaluation by TNI for late 2008
- Method Update Rule letter in circulation



Method Update Rule

Projected timetable for laboratory compliance with rule





Information about LELAP

- Posted on the LDEQ website
<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/36/Default.aspx>
- Go to the Divisions link and select Laboratory Services
- Continue to the Laboratory Accreditation link
- There is also a link to the LELAP SOPs



If you have any questions...

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