

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



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Commissioner

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EHS Circular Letter #2012-15

To: Environmental Laboratory Directors

From: Dermot Jones, Environmental Laboratory Consultant/Certification Officer

Date: March 9, 2012

Subject: General Permit for Discharge of Storm Water Associated with Industrial Activity
Effective Date: October 1, 2011

The Test Procedures Section 5(e)(2)(D)(i) of the above referenced permit may be in conflict with the implementation of the environmental laboratory certification program (ELCP). The methods that are required to be used for storm water analysis are the Clean Water Act (CWA) methods listed in 40 CFR 136. The laboratories certified by the ELCP for testing the non-potable water/wastewater matrix, which include storm water samples, are reviewed and evaluated based on their performance in using this suite of test methods. Section 5(e)(2)(D)(i) correctly references the CFR methods citation but then incorrectly cites that environmental laboratories must also meet the guidance criteria of Reasonable Confidence Protocols (RCPs) when testing storm waters.

The RCPs are based on the SW-846 Guidance Document of Test Methods for Solid and Hazardous Waste testing as cited under the 40 CFR Parts 63, 258, 260, 261, 264, 265, 266, 268, 270, 271, and 279 [RCRA-2002-0025; FRL-7916-1]. The RCPs were developed for site remediation and monitoring well samples and the methods used for analysis, and the quality control guidance established for this type of testing are not applicable for use when a laboratory analyzes storm water samples.

Although the above referenced section of the general permit is confusing, the intent for including RCP guidance criteria was for emphasis and an attempt at reminding environmental laboratories that it is their responsibility to retain all necessary quality assessment documentation to ensure the legally defensible aspect of reported data. This letter will be notification and a reminder to laboratories testing storm water samples, that it is required to maintain (at a minimum 5 years) CWA method quality control acceptance criteria records (for analysis of blanks, LFMs, duplicates, calibration curves, LPCs, etc.) and quality assurance documentation (QA Manual, Sample Collection SOPs, control charts, etc.) in a manner that is readily accessible for review. Therefore by this notification, storm water samples analyzed by CWA methodology are *not* to be consistent with RCP method criteria.

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