



# Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Bob Martinez Center  
2600 Blair Stone Road  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400



Michael W. Sole  
Secretary

Dr. Ana M. Viamonte Ros  
Secretary

February 26, 2010

Dear Laboratory Director:

A lack of issues has meant we haven't needed a lab letter in the last few years. We'd like to thank you all for working with our agencies to improve the accuracy and timeliness of lab data during that time. This letter is meant to communicate with you a few recent and upcoming changes which may impact your operations.

1. New Laboratory Reporting Formats. The bacti and chem reporting formats have been updated. We have provided copies of the new formats with this letter, and the formats are also posted on our website at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/drinkingwater/forms.htm>. Please recall that using the correct reporting format is critical to ensure proper data reporting to the State and the EPA. Changing column headings, changing the order of columns, or adding chemicals within the rows of the formats is not acceptable. These new formats take effect immediately, but we are allowing a transition period until 06/01/2010 for phasing out the old reporting formats.
2. Reporting Analysis Method on the Microbial Reporting Format. In order to properly complete the new bacti format, include the analysis methodology along with the method citation (e.g. "Colilert, SM9223B"). This will allow us to confirm compliance with the new Ground Water Rule.
3. Federal Ground Water Rule is in Effect. The federal GWR became effective on 12/01/2009. We expect to adopt the GWR on the state level later this year. Under the federal GWR some fecal indicator methods which can be used under the Total Coliform Rule are not allowed. We have attached a chart from 40 CFR 141 which shows the methods that are acceptable to test for fecal indicators under the GWR. If your laboratory is not certified to test for a fecal indicator with one of the approved methods, you may contact Steve Arms at (904) 791-1502 or [steve\\_arms@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:steve_arms@doh.state.fl.us) for instructions.

4. Slight Changes to Data Qualifier Table. There were some changes to the data qualifier table when the QA Rule (62-160, F.A.C.) was updated on 12/03/2008. The new data qualifier table can be found with the attached chem format or on the web at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/labs/qa/index.htm> (found as Table 1 in 62-160). Please note that the J qualifier no longer requires a numerical descriptor. Also, results qualified with a J, Q, R, or Y must be accompanied by a written justification. The written justification should include batch information such as QC recoveries in order for the results to be properly evaluated. Please use the data qualifiers as directed; improper use may lead to rejected sample data.
  
5. DOH Rule 64E-1. The DOH Environmental Laboratory Certification Program is proposing amendments to the certification rules in 64E-1, F.A.C. The amendments include a proposal to adopt the standards of The NELAC Institute, a proposal to require laboratories to report test results for compliance drinking water samples that exceed the MCL for fecal coliform or *E. coli* or for nitrate, nitrite or nitrate-nitrite directly to the regulatory authority, and an increase in certification fees. For a copy of the latest draft of the rule and for additional information as it becomes available, please refer to the DOH web site at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/lab/EnvLabCert/WaterCert.htm>.

We hope the reminders above will assist you in providing service to your clients and prevent any delays or rejection of your data by the state agencies. We want to thank all of the laboratories for their excellent services. If there are any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call either Van Hoofnagle at (850) 245-8631 or Steve Arms at (904) 791-1502.

Sincerely,



Van R. Hoofnagle, Administrator

Van R. Hoofnagle, Administrator  
Drinking Water Section  
Florida Department of Environmental  
Protection



Stephen A. Arms, Administrator

Stephen A. Arms, Administrator  
Environmental Laboratory Certification Program  
Florida Department of Health

Attachments

CC: DEP District and ACHD Offices

Ed Bettinger

Michael Blizzard