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Environmental Protection
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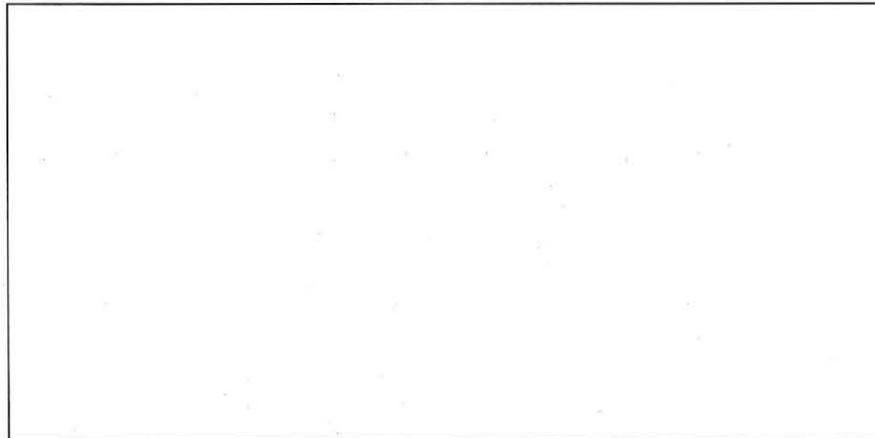
OECA MC 2227A
WASHINGTON DC 20460

Official Business

TIME SENSITIVE - RESPONSE NEEDED

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

March 20, 2015: Submit address verification and order PT Samples
July 10, 2015: DMR-QA Study 35 ends
August 28, 2015: Submit DMR-QA 35 Results to DMR-QA Coordinator
October 23, 2015: Submit corrective action reports and retest results to DMR-QA Coordinator, if applicable



IMPORTANT NOTICE TO NPDES PERMITTEES
DMR-QA Study 35 Announcement

DMR-QA STUDY 35

Immediately verify receipt of DMR-QA Study 35 by either filling out the form below and mailing this page to your state coordinator (listed on pages 7-8) or follow the e-mail instructions at the bottom of this page.

The mailed form must be postmarked on or before **March 20, 2015**.

NPDES PERMITTEE ADDRESS VERIFICATION FORM

Discharge Monitoring Report - Quality Assurance (DMR-QA) Study 35

Please provide corrections to the mailing address where all DMR-QA paperwork should be sent.

State NPDES Permit Number

(2-character State Code + 7 digit Permit Code as shown on the mailing label, for example CA1234567)

If Address is correct, you only need to check this box

Facility Name	<input type="text"/>		
Contact Name	<input type="text"/>	Title	<input type="text"/>
Mailing Address	<input type="text"/>		
City	<input type="text"/>	State	<input type="text"/>
		Zip Code	<input type="text"/>
Phone Number	<input type="text"/>	Fax Number	<input type="text"/>
E-mail Address	<input type="text"/>		

ELECTRONIC NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

You may verify receipt electronically by sending an e-mail on or before **March 20, 2015** to your state DMR-QA coordinator (listed on pages 7-8 of the enclosed instructions). The e-mail should be composed in the following manner:

1. Subject line should contain **ONLY** the NPDES Permit number (2-character State Code + 7-digit Permit Code as shown on the mailing label, for example CA1234567).
2. If you require any changes to the mailing label on this announcement, the body of the e-mail should contain a list including: Company name, Contact Name/Title, Mailing Address, City, State, Zip Code, Facility Type (select one: federal, state, local or commercial/private). Otherwise, you may simply write "No changes to address" in the body of the e-mail.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, DC 20460

FEB 03 2015

OFFICE OF
ENFORCEMENT AND
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

Dear NPDES Permit Holder:

This letter initiates the 2015 Discharge Monitoring Report - Quality Assurance (DMR-QA) Study 35. By receipt of this letter, you are required, under Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 308, to participate in DMR-QA Study 35 unless your facility is covered by an EPA waiver.¹ Your participation plays a key role in monitoring the quality of data used to assure the integrity of the CWA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program.

DMR-QA Study 35 covers major and select minor NPDES permit holders. You (the permittee) are responsible for ensuring results of DMR-QA Study tests, performed by your in-house and/or contract laboratories, are graded by an accredited Proficiency Testing (PT) Provider. If any graded results are "Not Acceptable," you must follow up with the laboratory to determine the cause of the deficiency and ensure corrective action is taken to prevent future occurrences. To satisfy DMR-QA Study requirements, **your laboratory may use reporting data from a Water Pollution (WP) study administered by an accredited PT Provider and performed between January 1, 2015 and July 10, 2015.** This provides flexibility to you and your laboratories performing DMR-QA Study tests. While performing tests and analyses, please ensure that your test methods/procedures follow 40 CFR 136 guidelines. Use the same personnel, equipment, test methods and procedures as you would for routine compliance monitoring tests.

What changes were made to DMR-QA Study 35?

For Study 35, permittees that receive one or more "Not Acceptable" results from their laboratories will now have more time to complete retesting/verification analysis and to submit a corrective action report to the state DMR-QA coordinator. Retest results and corrective action reports are due on October 23, 2015, if applicable. To obtain a new U.S. EPA Laboratory Code or to verify your current code, laboratories should now contact their EPA Regional Coordinator listed on page 6.

Further information

Permittees with valid e-mail addresses will receive the DMR-QA Study by e-mail but may request a hard copy. Questions on the national program should be addressed to Brian Krausz (dmrqa@epa.gov, 202-564-3069), EPA's National DMR-QA Coordinator. State and EPA regional DMR-QA contact information is provided on pages 6-8. Please reference your NPDES permit number on all correspondence.

Thank you for your attention to this Clean Water Act Section 308 requirement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward J. Messina".

Edward J. Messina, Director
Monitoring, Assistance, and Media Programs Division
Office of Compliance

Enclosures

¹ EPA is authorized to collect this information under Section 308 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1318. This information request is enforceable under 33 U.S.C. § 1319. EPA may grant a waiver from participating in DMR-QA to states with laboratory quality assurance programs approved by EPA as a substitute for the DMR-QA Study. Refer to the footnote on page 2 to determine if you are covered by an EPA waiver, or contact your state coordinator.

DMR-QA Study 35

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Checklist and Schedule for DMR-QA Study 35

Deadline*	Permittee	In-House and Contract Laboratories	PT Providers
March 20, 2015	<input type="checkbox"/> Study 35 begins <input type="checkbox"/> Send Address Verification Form (inside cover of this package) to the state coordinator by e-mail or postal mail to confirm receipt of Study 35 Announcement <input type="checkbox"/> Notify all laboratories of DMR-QA Study 35	<input type="checkbox"/> Study 35 begins <input type="checkbox"/> Order test samples from PT Provider	
July 10, 2015	<input type="checkbox"/> Study 35 ends	<input type="checkbox"/> Study 35 ends <input type="checkbox"/> Send ungraded Data Report to PT Providers (include a list of all NPDES permits using your laboratory data)	<input type="checkbox"/> Study 35 ends
July 31, 2015			Send PT Provider-graded test results, for each permit (listed by NPDES permit numbers), to: <input type="checkbox"/> - Laboratory - State DMR-QA coordinators
August 14, 2015	<input type="checkbox"/> Ensure laboratories perform retests for any analytes with "Not Acceptable" test results	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward PT Provider-graded test results to the Permittee <input type="checkbox"/> Order retest samples from PT Provider for all "Not Acceptable" analyte test results. If using a WP study to satisfy corrective action, data must be reported to the PT Provider by the published WP study close date, even if it is prior to the DMR-QA deadline of October 23, 2015 .	
August 28, 2015	<input type="checkbox"/> Send <u>one signed copy</u> of the NPDES Permittee Data Report Form, and copies of the Chemistry/Microbiology and WET Checklists for each laboratory used, to the state DMR-QA coordinator	<input type="checkbox"/> Send corrective action letter including any retest results <u>as soon as possible</u> to your Permittee, if applicable.	
October 23, 2015	<input type="checkbox"/> Submit corrective action report including retest results to the state DMR-QA coordinator, if applicable		

* All materials must be sent on or before the date provided.

DMR-QA STUDY 35 - Frequently Asked Questions

Am I required to participate in this DMR-QA Study?

NPDES Major and select Minor permit holders are required to participate in DMR-QA studies. Be sure to verify the permit number on the front of this package or indicated in your e-mail. If you believe you received this study in error, contact your state DMR-QA coordinator (pages 7-8). Some permit holders are not required to perform the DMR-QA study because they are located in a state that has a laboratory quality assurance program approved by EPA as a substitute for DMR-QA.²

What is the purpose of this DMR-QA Study?

The purpose of the Discharge Monitoring Report - Quality Assurance (DMR-QA) Study 35 is to ensure the integrity of data submitted by the permittee for DMR reporting requirements and evaluate performance of the laboratories to analyze wastewater samples.

What laboratory tests are required under DMR-QA?

Permittees are responsible for having their laboratory(ies) test wastewater analytes that are both in their NPDES permit and included in Study 35. For required Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) tests, permittees must participate even if the test conditions (e.g., temperature, time of acute test, synthetic seawater matrix, etc.) in the permit do not exactly match those in Study 35. Refer to "WET Testing Laboratory Instructions" (page 5) for more information.

How should laboratory personnel perform DMR-QA tests?

For all pollutant parameters, especially field test parameters (e.g., pH, residual chlorine), use the same personnel, equipment, test methods and procedures as required for NPDES compliance monitoring tests. Ensure your test methods and procedures follow 40 CFR 136 guidelines.

Where can laboratories get test samples?

Laboratories may order DMR-QA samples from a PT Provider accredited by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA), or ACLASS, a brand of the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board. A list of accredited PT Providers is provided on page 6.

What should permittees and laboratories do first?

Permittees must first confirm receipt of this package by March 20, 2015 to their state coordinator (pages 6-8) via e-mail or postal mail. Permittees must also send a copy of the enclosed instructions/checklists to all in-house and contract laboratories. The permittee specifies on the checklist which analyses the laboratory will perform. See Permittee Instructions (page 3) for more information. Upon receipt of instructions, laboratories must order samples from an accredited PT Provider (page 6). This should be done early to allow sufficient time to perform the required analyses and send ungraded results to the PT Provider prior to the close of DMR-QA Study 35 (July 10, 2015). See Laboratory Instructions (pages 4-5) for more information.

Can I use a Water Pollution (WP) Study to satisfy DMR-QA requirements?

Yes, permittees may use a WP study to satisfy some or all of the DMR-QA requirements. However, only results from WP studies closing between January 1 and July 10, 2015 will be accepted. See Permittee Instructions for more information (Step 5 on page 3).

What steps do I take after the proficiency testing?

After laboratories report their data to the Proficiency Test (PT) Providers, the PT Provider issues a report to the laboratory and the state DMR-QA coordinator, indicating the results were "Acceptable" or "Not Acceptable". The laboratory must then forward a copy of the graded report to the permittee. The permittee subsequently completes the checklists on pages 12-13, indicating the laboratory's grade for each required analyte. One set of checklists must be used for each laboratory. The permittee must also fill out the NPDES Permittee Data Report Form (EPA Form 6400-01, pages 9-11) and submit a signed copy with the completed checklists and copies of the laboratory's graded reports to the state coordinator by August 28, 2015.

What do I do if a laboratory receives a "Not Acceptable" result?

If any graded results are "Not Acceptable," the permittee must follow up with the laboratory to determine the cause of the result and take corrective action to prevent future occurrences. The laboratory must order retesting samples, analyze them, and write a corrective action response for the permittee. The permittee then submits retest results and a corrective action report to the state DMR-QA coordinator by October 23, 2015. Note: If using a WP study to satisfy corrective action, data must be reported to the PT Provider by the published WP study close date, even if it is prior to the DMR-QA deadline of **October 23, 2015**.

Where do I go for more information?

DMR-QA resources including fill-and-print forms are available at <http://www2.epa.gov/compliance/discharge-monitoring-report-quality-assurance-study-program>.

² As of January 1, 2015, permittees in the following states have laboratory quality assurance programs approved by EPA as a substitute for DMR-QA: CA, KS, NJ, NV, NC, PA, SC, UT, VA, WV and WI. Louisiana has an approved laboratory quality assurance programs for commercial laboratories only. NPDES permittees in Arkansas, New Hampshire and Oklahoma that are covered by their State laboratory accreditation program are also exempted from DMR-QA Study 35. Laboratories in Arkansas, Maine, New Hampshire, and Oklahoma not fully certified by the State must perform DMR-QA studies. Check with your state coordinator if you have questions about your state's waiver status.

NPDES Permittee Instructions

1. Verify your participation in DMR-QA Study 35 by confirming the NPDES permit number on the front of this package or in e-mail. If you believe you received this study in error or have questions about your exemption status, contact your state DMR-QA coordinator (pages 7-8). Please refer to Footnote 2 of the Frequently Asked Questions page (page 2) for a list of exempted states.
2. Follow the instructions on the DMR-QA Study 35 Important Notice (inside front cover of study package) and immediately confirm receipt of this package to your state coordinator via postal mail or e-mail. You must submit your response no later than **March 20, 2015**. If your permit is inactive, please contact your state DMR-QA coordinator immediately.
3. Send copies of these instructions to each contract and in-house laboratory, if applicable. Ensure DMR-QA samples are analyzed by the same laboratories that routinely perform analyses for your Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) requirements. Indicate which tests the laboratory will perform by checking the appropriate boxes in the "Test Required" column in the enclosed tables (pages 12-13).
4. Ensure that each laboratory uses their U.S. EPA Laboratory Code on all reported results. Make certain your laboratories understand and complete all requirements. Laboratories needing a new U.S. EPA Lab Code or wanting to confirm their existing U.S. EPA Lab Code, should contact their EPA Regional Coordinator listed on page 6. Submit all requests for lab codes at least one week before the PT Providers' WP study due date or one week prior to the DMR-QA Study 35 end date (**July 10, 2015**) to allow time for response.
5. Instruct your laboratory to order samples for analytes that are both in your permit and included in DMR-QA Study 35. Your in-house and contract laboratories must order PT samples from an accredited PT Provider (page 6). Ensure your laboratory orders the samples early enough to allow time to perform the required analyses and send results to the PT Provider prior to the close of DMR-QA Study 35 (**July 10, 2015**). Your laboratory should register your permit number with the PT Provider prior to **July 10, 2015**. **Note:** If your in-house or contract laboratory chooses to use a WP study to satisfy DMR-QA requirements, please inform the laboratory that all data must be reported to the PT Provider by the published WP study close date, even if it is prior to the DMR-QA deadline of **July 10, 2015**. WP studies are only valid for DMR-QA Study 35 if the WP study meets the following requirements:
 - a) Samples are offered by an accredited PT Provider (page 6).
 - b) The WP study does not close before **January 1, 2015**, or after **July 10, 2015**.
 - c) The PT Provider shows the WP results from each of the permittee's regulated analytes on the DMR-QA reporting form.
6. Permittees are responsible for ensuring that laboratories submit data on permittee's behalf to the PT Provider by the end of DMR-QA Study 35 (**July 10, 2015**). Laboratories must send ungraded data to the same PT Provider they received samples from. By **July 31, 2015**, PT Provider-graded test results will be sent back to the laboratories. Permittees will not receive graded reports directly from PT Providers unless they are an in-house laboratory. **Note:** Permittees are not required to report ungraded data to the PT Provider on their laboratories' behalf nor should permittees send ungraded data to their state DMR-QA coordinator.
7. Permittees must require laboratories to forward to them graded results from the PT Provider by **August 14, 2015**. Using these graded results, permittees must fill out the Chemistry/Microbiology Analyte and WET Organisms/Test Conditions/End Points checklists (pages 12-13) for each laboratory, indicating the analyte tests performed by the laboratory and whether the result was Acceptable or Not Acceptable. Make sure the appropriate NPDES permit number and U.S. EPA Lab Code are on each checklist. If you use more than one laboratory, you must use a separate checklist for each laboratory. If a laboratory reports more than one method to you for any single analyte, you must use a separate checklist for each method reported.
8. Follow the directions on the "NPDES Permittee Data Report Form" (Form 6400-01, pages 9-11) and complete the information. You may use a "fill and print" form available at: <http://www2.epa.gov/compliance/discharge-monitoring-report-quality-assurance-study-program>. By **August 28, 2015**, you must send a copy of the signed Form 6400-01, graded results, and completed checklists from step 7 for each of your permits to the state DMR-QA coordinator. However, if the PT Provider already submits graded results sorted by permit number to the state DMR-QA coordinator, the permittee is only required to submit Form 6400-01 and the applicable checklists. In this situation, the laboratory should provide a list of its permittees' permit numbers associated with each required analyte to the PT Provider prior to the close of DMR-QA Study 35 or the WP study. Check with your laboratory to determine whether the PT Provider is sending the graded data directly to the state DMR-QA coordinator. Permittees must maintain a copy of the completed NPDES Permittee Data Report Form, checklists and graded laboratory results as a record for at least three (3) years.
9. After receiving laboratory results, permittees must consult with the laboratory and investigate any discrepancies or "Not Acceptable" evaluations reported by the PT Provider. Permittees must identify, and report to the state DMR-QA coordinator, causes and system changes to correct the discrepancies. Laboratories must order retesting samples by **August 14, 2015** for any "Not Acceptable" results and perform the retests as soon as possible. The Corrective Action report should include results from any retest/verification analysis performed and must be sent to the state DMR-QA coordinator before **October 23, 2015**.

Chemistry and Microbiology Laboratory Instructions

Your laboratory is designated to participate in DMR-QA Study 35 by a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permittee, because the permittee uses or plans to use your laboratory to perform chemistry/microbiology analyses to satisfy their NPDES permit requirements during 2015. For measurements of all pollutant parameters, especially field test parameters (e.g., pH, residual chlorine), use the same personnel, equipment, and procedures as required for NPDES compliance monitoring analyses. Please ensure that your test methods/procedures follow 40 CFR 136 guidelines. Please note for low level mercury, the concentration range is 20 - 100 ng/L (20 - 100 parts per trillion) and for low level total residual chlorine, the concentration range is 75 - 250 µg/L (75 - 250 parts per billion). If you have questions about whether you should perform the test using the normal or the low level mercury and/or low level total residual chlorine concentration, contact your state DMR-QA coordinator.

1. Each permittee for whom you analyze or provide data in 2015 will determine which analyses you must perform by checking the appropriate boxes on the enclosed "Chemistry/Microbiology Analyte Checklist" (page 12).
2. Order DMR-QA Study 35 chemistry and microbiology samples from one of the Proficiency Test (PT) Providers (page 6). Be sure to allow yourself enough time to perform the analyses before the closing date of DMR-QA Study 35 (**July 10, 2015**). Maintain a copy of all completed order forms for your records.

Note: You may be able to utilize the results from a Water Pollution (WP) study to meet the requirements of DMR-QA, if all of the following conditions are met:

- a) Samples are offered by an accredited PT Provider (page 6).
 - b) The WP study does not close before **January 1, 2015**, or after **July 10, 2015**.
 - c) The PT Provider shows the WP study results of each permittee's regulated analytes on the DMR-QA reporting form.
3. Record your ungraded analytical data and your EPA Lab Code on the Data Reporting Forms received with your samples. Be sure to follow the PT Provider's instructions and deadlines received with these samples.
 4. Use of the EPA-assigned Lab Code on all reported results is required. If you need a new EPA Lab Code or need to verify your existing EPA Lab Code, please contact your EPA Regional Coordinator (see contact information on page 6).
 5. Send the data requested by each of your permittees to the PT Provider for grading. You must send data to the same PT Provider that you received samples from. Make sure you provide the DMR-QA Study 35 or WP study results to the PT Provider by **July 10, 2015**. If you choose to use a WP study, you must report all data to the PT Provider by their published WP study close date, even if it is prior to the DMR-QA deadline of **July 10, 2015**. (Notify the PT Provider that a WP study is being used for DMR-QA and send copies of the analyte checklist(s) if you are reporting via hardcopy).
 6. The PT Provider will grade your analyses and send the graded results to you by **July 31, 2015**. If the PT Provider is submitting graded results sorted by permit number to the state DMR-QA coordinator, then you should register your permittees' permit numbers associated with each required analyte with the PT Provider prior to the close of DMR-QA Study 35 or the WP study. Forward the graded results of the analytes to the permittee by **August 14, 2015**, so the permittee can fill out the analyte checklist on page 12.
 7. If any graded results are "Not Acceptable," laboratories should coordinate with the permittee to determine the cause of the result and identify corrective action to prevent future occurrences. Laboratories must order retest samples for "Not Acceptable" analyte test results by **August 14, 2015**. The corrective action report and graded retest results must be forwarded to the permittee as soon as possible, but no later than **October 23, 2015**.

WET Testing Laboratory Instructions

Your laboratory is designated to participate in DMR-QA Study 35 by a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permittee, because the permittee uses or plans to use this laboratory to perform Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) analyses during 2015. For all analytes, use the same personnel, equipment, and procedures as required for NPDES compliance monitoring analyses. Ensure that your test methods/procedures follow 40 CFR 136 guidelines and the manuals referenced below.

1. The permittee(s) determine which analyses you will perform by checking the appropriate boxes on the enclosed table "WET Organisms/Test Conditions/End Points" (page 13). Ensure that the permittee has selected the test organism(s) and testing conditions that most closely resemble those required by the permit for which you are supplying test results. Use the guidelines immediately below and the table on page 13 to select the proper WET tests.

Guidelines for Choosing the Correct WET Test Organisms/Conditions/End Points

- Laboratories should only report one end point for each test code required.
 - For laboratory performance quality assurance (QA) purposes, the point estimation techniques that produce end points such as the Inhibiting Concentration 25% (IC25) are the preferred statistical methods in calculating end points for effluent chronic toxicity tests. However, laboratories should choose the statistical methods that allow calculation of the end point(s) required by the NPDES permit and are used for routine permit compliance tests. For example, if a permit specifies a No Observable Effect Concentration (NOEC) end point for Survival, and it is reported regularly on DMR's, this end point should be reported for DMR-QA even if it is no longer listed on the WET analyte checklist.
 - If the permit requires WET testing with Fathead minnows, *Ceriodaphnia dubia*, *Daphnia magna*, *Daphnia pulex*, *Mysidopsis bahia*, Inland silverside (*Menidia beryllina*) or Sheepshead minnow (*Cyprinodon variegates*), test those organisms listed in each permit using the test conditions, including temperature, defined in the Test Codes.
 - If the permit's WET testing conditions for *Ceriodaphnia dubia* specify 48-h acute, non-renewal testing, conduct this test using the static, renewal acute conditions defined by Test Codes 19 and 20. The testing conditions defined for these Test Codes have been proven to provide an appropriate measure of your ability to perform WET testing with *Ceriodaphnia dubia*.
 - If the permit's WET testing conditions for *Daphnia magna* and *Daphnia pulex* specify 48-h acute renewal testing, you must conduct this test using the non-renewal conditions specified in Test Codes 32 and 38.
 - If the permit's WET testing conditions require 24, 48, or 96-h acute testing using any of the organisms included in Study 35, use the 48-h acute test conditions specified in the Test Codes.
 - If the permit requires WET testing with *Mysidopsis bahia*, Inland silverside (*Menidia beryllina*) or Sheepshead minnow (*Cyprinodon variegates*) and your laboratory uses an alternate synthetic seawater (e.g. Hawaiian Brands, GP2) other than the 40 Fathoms specified in the Test Codes, you must still perform testing.
 - If the permit requires 20°C acute testing for any organisms included in Study 35, use 25°C acute test conditions specified in the Test Codes.
2. Order DMR-QA toxicity samples from an accredited PT Provider (page 6). Allow yourself enough time to perform the analyses before the closing date of DMR-QA Study 35 (**July 10, 2015**). Maintain a copy of all completed order forms for your records.
 3. Record your ungraded analytical data and EPA Lab Code number on the Data Report Form received with your samples. Be sure to follow the PT Provider's instructions and deadlines received with the samples. You must use the EPA-assigned Lab Code on all reported results. If you need a new EPA Lab Code or to verify your current code, contact your EPA Regional Coordinator (page 6).
 4. Send the ungraded data requested by each of your permittees to the PT Provider for grading. You must send it to the same PT Provider that you received samples from. Make sure you provide the DMR-QA Study 35 study results by **July 10, 2015**.
 5. The PT Provider will grade your results and send them to you by **July 31, 2015**. If the PT Provider is submitting graded results sorted by permit number to the state DMR-QA coordinator, then you should register your permittees' permit numbers associated with each required analyte with the PT Provider prior to the close of DMR-QA Study 35 or the WP study. Forward the graded results of the analytes to the permittee by **August 15, 2015** so the permittee can fill out the analyte checklist on page 13.
 6. If any graded results are "Not Acceptable," laboratories should coordinate with the permittee to determine the cause of the result and identify corrective action to prevent future occurrences. Laboratories must order retest samples for "Not Acceptable" analyte test results by **August 14, 2015**. The corrective action report and graded retest results must be forwarded to the permittee as soon as possible, but no later than **October 23, 2015**.

Reference Manuals: (see <http://www.epa.gov/scitech/methods/cwa/wet/index.cfm>)

1. *Methods for Measuring the Acute Toxicity of Effluents to Freshwater and Marine Organisms, Fifth Edition*, October 2002. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water, Washington, DC, EPA 821-R-02-012.
2. *Short-term Methods for Estimating the Chronic Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Waters to Freshwater Organisms, Fourth Edition*, October 2002. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water, Washington, DC, EPA 821-R-02-013.
3. *Short-term Methods for Estimating the Chronic Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Waters to Marine and Estuarine Organisms, Third Edition*, October 2002. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water, Washington, DC, EPA 821-R-02-014.
4. *Method Guidance and Recommendations for Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Testing (40 CFR Part 136)*. July, 2000. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water, Washington, DC, EPA-821-B-00-004.
5. *Short-term Methods for Estimating the Chronic Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Waters to West Coast Marine and Estuarine Organisms, 1st Ed.*, 1995, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development, Cincinnati, OH, EPA/600/R-95/136. http://www.epa.gov/eerd/methods/full_doc.pdf.

Accredited Proficiency Testing Providers

The following Proficiency Test (PT) Providers are accredited by A2LA or ACLASS. A2LA and ACLASS have each been designated a Proficiency Testing Oversight Body (PTOB)/Proficiency Testing Provider Accreditor (PTPA) by The NELAC Institute (TNI). Find the following PT Providers on the internet at: <http://www.nelac-institute.org/ptproviders.php>.

NELAC-Accredited Provider	Chem	Micro	WET
NSI Lab Solutions, Raleigh, NC Mr. Mark Hammersla (919) 789-3000 mark.hammersla@nsilabsolutions.com www.nsilabsolutions.com	X	X	
NYS DOH Environmental Laboratory Approval Program, Albany, NY Dr. Kenneth Aldous (518) 474-7161 elap@health.state.ny.us	X	X	
Environmental Resource Associates (ERA), Golden, CO (800) 372-0122 interlabgroup@eraqc.com ; info@eraqc.com www.eraqc.com	X	X	X
Absolute Standards, Inc., Hamden, CT Mr. Stephen Arpie (203) 281-2917 or (800) 368-1131 stephen@absolutestandards.com www.absolutestandards.com	X	X	
Phenova Inc., Golden, CO (866) 942-2978 info@phenova.com www.phenova.com	X	X	X
Advanced Analytical Solutions, LLC, Parkersburg, WV Fred Anderson (304) 485-6325 Fred@advancedqc.com www.advancedqc.com	X	X	
Sigma Aldrich RTC, Laramie, WY Mrs. Jennifer Duhon (307) 742-5452 Fax: (855) 831-9211 RTCPTgroup@sial.com www.sigma-aldrich.com	X	X	X

EPA Regional DMR-QA Coordinators

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(CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT)

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*Some or all permittees in these states may not be required to participate in DMR-QA due to a full or partial waiver agreement with EPA.

Your coordinator may change.

Please consult: <http://www2.epa.gov/compliance/state-discharge-monitoring-report-quality-assurance-dmr-qa-coordinators>
and <http://www2.epa.gov/compliance/regional-discharge-monitoring-report-quality-assurance-dmr-qa-coordinators> for the latest list of coordinators.

For additional questions, contact US EPA Headquarters:

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United States
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Washington, DC 20460

Laboratory DMR-QA Evaluation Study 35

Laboratory Performance Evaluation

Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

(This data is collected under the authority of Section 308 of the Clean Water Act.)

Paperwork Reduction Act Notice

The public reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 6.3 hours per response. Send comments on the Agency's need for this information, the accuracy of the provided burden estimates, and any suggested methods for minimizing respondent burden, including through the use of automated collection techniques to the Director, Collection Strategies Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2822T), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20460. Include the OMB control number in any correspondence. Do not send the completed form to this address.

Instructions for the NPDES Permittee Data Report Form

1. This is a two-page form.
2. Enter your NPDES permit number at the top of pages 10 and 11.
3. You must fill in the 2-digit **permit extension** field at the top of page 10 if there is an extension for your permit code. If you have one, the extension will appear next to your permit code in the address box on page 11; for example: "NPDES Permittee CA1234567-01." If there is no extension, leave this field blank.
4. Identify each of your laboratories on page 11, including their U.S. EPA Lab code which is a unique identifier number assigned by EPA. (Refer to page 3, item 4 in the Study 35 packet.) (NOTE: The U.S. EPA lab code of the laboratory that produced the data must also appear at the top of the Chemistry/Microbiology and WET testing checklists on pages 12-13.)
5. Make copies of pages 10 and 11. Then attach a copy of these pages to the Chemistry/Microbiology and WET testing checklists. Separate copies of each checklist must be filled out for each laboratory you used. Also, if a laboratory reports more than one method to you for any single analyte, you must use a separate checklist for each method reported. These checklists must indicate the graded results for the analytes tested by the laboratory that are in your permit and required for DMR-QA (Acceptable or Not Acceptable). For Study 35, it is optional but encouraged to write in the approved test method used for DMR-QA Chemistry/Microbiology analytes. If you use a state-certified laboratory to generate your NPDES data in a state that has been granted a partial exemption from the DMR-QA study by the EPA Region, check the "Analyte determined by state-certified laboratory" box(es) on the checklists (pages 12 and 13) for all analytes in your permit analyzed by a certified laboratory.
6. Sign and date the certification statement on page 10.
7. Make copies of the NPDES Permittee Data Report form and checklists for your records.
8. Submit the signed copy of the Permittee Data Packages by e-mail or postal mail to the State DMR-QA coordinator **no later than August 28, 2015**.



**United States
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

Washington, DC 20460

**Laboratory DMR-QA Evaluation Study 35
Laboratory Performance Evaluation**

Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

(This data is collected under the authority of Section 308 of the Clean Water Act.)

NPDES Permittee Data Report Form

Attention: Follow the instructions on the previous page to complete this form and submit data for evaluation.

Due August 28, 2015

State

NPDES Permit Number

Permit Extension

Permittee Name

Current Permittee Mailing Address

City

State

Zip Code

Phone Number

Fax Number

E-mail

Optional: If WP Study was used, list PT Provider name(s):

Optional: WP Study Number(s)

For DMR-QA Study 35, conducted in 2015, the Permittee ensured that their laboratory(s) performing the required analyses:

Received PT Samples

Yes No

Submitted Complete and Accurate Data by July 10, 2015

Yes No

Received a Graded Report by July 31, 2015

Yes No

Certification by Permit Holder or Authorized Representative

(as per 40 C.F.R. Section 122.22 - see instructions.)

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. Each reported value was produced from a single analytical run using the analytical system that routinely performs these analyses to produce compliance monitoring data required under our National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Neither I nor any of my subordinates compared our results with results from independent analyses conducted by us or any other laboratory before we reported our results to the U.S.EPA. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

Name of Certifying Official

Title

Signature

Date

Address, phone number and e-mail of certifying official are required if different from above.

Address

Phone Number

City

State

Zip Code

E-mail



**United States
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

Washington, DC 20460

Laboratory DMR-QA Evaluation Study 35

Laboratory Performance Evaluation

Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

(This data is collected under the authority of Section 308 of the Clean Water Act.)

Permittee Name

State

NPDES Permit No.

Permit Extension

Identification of all CHEM, MICRO and WET laboratories who performed analyses for this permit

Name of Laboratory	Address of Laboratory	U.S. EPA Lab Code	Lab Analysis Check box(es) that apply			'Lab Type*	State-certified Lab**
			Chem	Micro	WET		
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

* Lab Types: C = Commercial F = Federal G = Local Government I = Industrial O = Other S = State

** See Footnote on page 2 (Frequently Asked Questions) for the current list of states with lab accreditation programs

If you need additional space, please make a copy of this page for additional laboratories.

Chemistry/Microbiology Analyte Checklist

DMR-QA Study 35

Analyte Test	Test Required	Method Number Used (optional)	Laboratory's Graded Result		Analyte determined by state-certified lab*
			Acceptable	Not Acceptable (Corrective Action Required)	
Microbiology					
<i>E. coli.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fecal Coliform, MF or MPN	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total Coliform, MF or MPN	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trace Metals					
Aluminum	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Antimony	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arsenic	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Barium	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Beryllium	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cadmium	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chromium, total	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chromium, hexavalent	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cobalt	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Copper	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Iron	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lead	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Manganese	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mercury	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mercury (Low Level)	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Molybdenum	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nickel	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selenium	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Silver	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thallium	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vanadium	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Zinc	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Demands					
5-day BOD	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5-day Carbonaceous BOD	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
COD	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TOC	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minerals					
Alkalinity, total (CaCO ₃)	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chloride	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fluoride	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardness, total (CaCO ₃)	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Specific conductance (25°C)	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sulfate	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total Dissolved Solids (180°C)	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nutrients					
Ammonia as N	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nitrate as N	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nitrite as N	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Orthophosphate as P	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total Kjeldahl-Nitrogen as N	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total Phosphorus as P	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Misc. Analytes					
Non-Filterable Residue (TSS)	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oil and Grease	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
pH	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total Cyanide	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total Phenolics (4-AAP)	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total Residual Chlorine	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total Residual Chlorine (Low Level)	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Settleable Solids	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Turbidity	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

** See Footnote on page 2

WET Organisms/Test Conditions/End Points Checklist DMR-QA Study 35

Analyte Number	Organisms / Conditions	End Points	Test Required	Laboratory's Graded Result		Analyte determined by state-certified Lab*
				Acceptable	Not Acceptable (Corrective Action Required)	
Test Code 13/EPA Method 2000						
754	Fathead minnow (<i>Pimephales promelas</i>) - MHSF 25°C	LC50	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Test Code 14/EPA Method 2000						
755	Fathead minnow (<i>Pimephales promelas</i>) - 20% DMW	LC50	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Test Code 15/EPA Method 1000						
756	Fathead minnow (<i>Pimephales promelas</i>) - MHSF	NOEC SURVIVAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
808	Fathead minnow (<i>Pimephales promelas</i>) - MHSF	IC25** (ON) GROWTH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
810	Fathead minnow (<i>Pimephales promelas</i>) - MHSF	NOEC (ON) GROWTH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Test Code 16/EPA Method 1000						
759	Fathead minnow (<i>Pimephales promelas</i>) - 20% DMW	NOEC SURVIVAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
812	Fathead minnow (<i>Pimephales promelas</i>) - 20% DMW	IC25** (ON) GROWTH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
814	Fathead minnow (<i>Pimephales promelas</i>) - 20% DMW	NOEC (ON) GROWTH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Test Code 19/EPA Method 2002						
764	<i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i> - MHSF 25°C	LC50	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Test Code 20/EPA Method 2002						
765	<i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i> - 20% DMW 25°C	LC50	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Test Code 21/EPA Method 1002						
766	<i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i> - MHSF	NOEC SURVIVAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
767	<i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i> - MHSF	IC25** REPRODUCTION	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
768	<i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i> - MHSF	NOEC REPRODUCTION	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Test Code 22/EPA Method 1002						
769	<i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i> - 20% DMW	NOEC SURVIVAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
770	<i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i> - 20% DMW	IC25** REPRODUCTION	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
771	<i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i> - 20% DMW	NOEC REPRODUCTION	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Test Code 32/EPA Method 2021						
788	<i>Daphnia magna</i> - MHSF 25°C	LC50	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Test Code 38/EPA Method 2021						
794	<i>Daphnia pulex</i> - MHSF 25°C	LC50	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Test Code 42/EPA Method 2007						
798	Mysid (<i>Mysidopsis bahia</i>) 25°C	LC50	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Test Code 43/EPA Method 1007						
799	Mysid (<i>Mysidopsis bahia</i>)	NOEC SURVIVAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
816	Mysid (<i>Mysidopsis bahia</i>)	IC25** (ON) GROWTH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
818	Mysid (<i>Mysidopsis bahia</i>)	NOEC (ON) GROWTH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Test Code 44/EPA Method 2006						
803	Inland silverside (<i>Menidia berylina</i>) 25°C	LC50	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Test Code 45/EPA Method 1006						
824	Inland silverside (<i>Menidia berylina</i>)	NOEC SURVIVAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
825	Inland silverside (<i>Menidia berylina</i>)	IC25** (ON) GROWTH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
826	Inland silverside (<i>Menidia berylina</i>)	NOEC (ON) GROWTH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Test Code 46/EPA Method 2004						
804	Sheepshead minnow (<i>Cyprinodon variegatus</i>) 25°C	LC50	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Test Code 47/EPA Method 1004						
805	Sheepshead minnow (<i>Cyprinodon variegatus</i>)	NOEC SURVIVAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
820	Sheepshead minnow (<i>Cyprinodon variegatus</i>)	IC25** (ON) GROWTH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
822	Sheepshead minnow (<i>Cyprinodon variegatus</i>)	NOEC (ON) GROWTH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

*See Footnote on page 2.

**Preferred endpoint for DMR-QA performance test reporting