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IMPORTANT NOTICE TO NPDES PERMITTEES DMR-QA Study 45 Announcement

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

June 6, 2025 DMR-QA Study 45 begins.

July 14, 2025 Submit address verification to State DMR-QA Coordinator.

August 29, 2025 DMR-QA Study 45 ends.

October 24, 2025 Submit DMR-QA 45 Results to State DMR-QA Coordinator.

December 5, 2025 Submit corrective action reports and retest results to State DMR-QA Coordinator, if applicable.

TIME SENSITIVE – RESPONSE NEEDED

Mailroom: Please forward to responsible office.



DMR-QA STUDY 45

Immediately verify receipt of DMR-QA Study 45 by either filling out the form below and mailing this page to your State DMR-QA Coordinator (listed on pages 10-11) or follow the e-mail instructions at the bottom of this page.

The mailed form must be postmarked on or before **July 14, 2025**.

NPDES PERMITTEE ADDRESS VERIFICATION FORM **Discharge Monitoring Report - Quality Assurance (DMR-QA) Study 45**

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

NPDES Permit Number

(2-character State Code + 7-digit Permit Code as shown on the mailing label—for example, AL1234567)

If contact/address information from the

mailing label or e-mail is correct, please check this box only → ☐

Facility Name		
Contact Name	Title	
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Phone Number	Fax Number	
E-mail Address		

ELECTRONIC NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

You may verify receipt electronically by sending an e-mail on or before **July 14, 2025** to your State DMR-QA Coordinator (listed on pages 10-11 of the enclosed instructions). The e-mail should be composed in the following manner:

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 AZ1234567).

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; and Facility Type (select one: federal, state, local or commercial/private). Otherwise, you may simply write “No changes to address or contact information” in the body of the e-mail.



OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

June 5, 2025

Dear NPDES Permit Holder:

This letter initiates the 2025 Discharge Monitoring Report - Quality Assurance (DMR-QA) Study 45. By receipt of this letter, you are required under Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 308 to participate in DMR-QA Study 45 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 and assures your ability to maintain compliance with NPDES permit requirements and conditions.

DMR-QA Study 45 covers major and select minor NPDES permit holders. You (the permittee) are responsible for ensuring that results of DMR-QA Study 45 tests, performed by your in-house and/or contract laboratories, are graded by an accredited Proficiency Testing (PT) Provider. If any graded test 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. While performing tests and analyses, please ensure that your test methods/procedures follow 40 CFR part 136 regulations and applicable guidance. Use the same personnel and equipment as you would for routine NPDES permit compliance monitoring tests.

Further Information

Permittees with valid e-mail addresses will receive the DMR-QA Study 45 package by e-mail. You may request a hard copy from EPA by sending an e-mail to dmrqa@epa.gov. Questions on the national program should be addressed to Greg Savitske (dmrqa@epa.gov, 202-564-2601), EPA's National DMR-QA Coordinator. State and EPA Regional DMR-QA contact information is provided on pages 9-11. Please reference your NPDES permit number on all correspondence.

Thank you for your attention to this CWA Section 308 requirement.

Sincerely,

Loren Denton, Director
Monitoring, Assistance, and Media Programs Division
Office of Compliance

Enclosures

¹ EPA is authorized to collect this information under Section 308 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1318. This information request is enforceable under Section 309 of the CWA, 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 footnotes 2, 3, and 4 on page 5 to determine if you are covered by an EPA waiver or contact your State DMR-QA Coordinator.

DMR-QA STUDY 45

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Schedule and Checklist for DMR-QA Study 45

Deadline*	Permittee	In-House and Contract Laboratories	PT Providers
June 6, 2025	☐ Study 45 begins ☐ Notify all laboratories of DMR-QA Study 45	☐ Study 45 begins ☐ Order test samples from PT Provider. If using WP study to satisfy DMR-QA requirements, specify that to PT Provider when ordering test samples.	
July 14, 2025	☐ Send Address Verification Form (inside cover of this package) to the State DMR-QA Coordinator by e-mail or postal mail to confirm receipt of Study 45 Announcement		
August 29, 2025	☐ Study 45 ends	☐ Study 45 ends ☐ Send ungraded Data Report to PT Providers (include a list of all NPDES permits using your laboratory data)	☐ Study 45 ends
September 26, 2025			☐ PT Provider to send graded test results, for each permit (listed by NPDES permit numbers), to: ▪ Laboratory ▪ State DMR-QA coordinators
October 10, 2025	☐ After receipt of PT Provider-graded test results, ensure laboratories perform retests for any analytes graded "Not Acceptable"	☐ Forward PT Provider-graded test results to the Permittee ☐ Order retest samples from PT Provider for all "Not Acceptable" analyte test results. If retesting using a WP study or quick turnaround PT sample to satisfy a corrective action, data must be reported to the PT Provider by the PT Provider's published closing date or by November 21, 2025 , whichever is earlier.	
October 24, 2025	☐ Send <u>one signed copy</u> of the NPDES Permittee Data Report Form, copies of the PT Provider-graded test results, and copies of the Chemistry/Microbiology and WET Checklists <u>for each laboratory used</u> , to the State DMR-QA Coordinator	☐ Send corrective action letter including any retest results <u>as soon as possible</u> to your Permittee, if applicable	
December 5, 2025	☐ 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 45 – Frequently Asked Questions

Am I required to participate in this Discharge Monitoring Report - Quality Assurance (DMR-QA) Study?

NPDES major and select minor permit holders are required to participate in the DMR-QA studies. Be sure to verify the NPDES 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 10-11). 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, 3, 4}

What is the purpose of this DMR-QA Study?

The purpose of DMR-QA Study 45 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 45. 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 45. Refer to “WET Testing Laboratory Instructions” (page 8) 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 and equipment as required for NPDES permit compliance monitoring tests. Ensure your test methods and procedures follow 40 CFR part 136 regulations.

Where can laboratories get test samples?

Laboratories may order DMR-QA samples from a Proficiency Test (PT) Provider accredited by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation or the ANSI National Accreditation Board. A list of accredited PT Providers is provided on page 9.

What should permittees and laboratories do first?

Permittees must first confirm receipt of this package by **July 14, 2025** to their State DMR-QA Coordinator (pages 10-11) 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 6) for more information. Upon receipt of instructions, laboratories must order samples from an accredited PT Provider (page 9). This should be done early to allow sufficient time to perform the required analyses and send ungraded test results to the PT Provider prior to the close of DMR-QA Study 45 (**August 29, 2025**). See Laboratory Instructions (pages 7-8) 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 the DMR-QA requirements. However, only test results from WP studies closing between **January 1, 2025**, and **August 29, 2025**, will be accepted. See Permittee Instructions for more information (Step 5 on page 6).

What steps do I take after the proficiency testing?

After laboratories report their data to the PT Providers, the PT Provider issues a report to the laboratory and the State DMR-QA Coordinator indicating the test 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 15-16, 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 12-13) and submit a signed copy with the completed checklists and copies of the laboratory’s graded reports to the State DMR-QA Coordinator by **October 24, 2025**.

What do I do if a laboratory receives a “Not Acceptable” test result?

If any graded test results are “Not Acceptable,” the permittee must follow up with the laboratory to determine the cause of that test 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 **December 5, 2025**. Note: If the laboratory requires a retest to satisfy the corrective action, the laboratory must use a WP study or a quick turnaround PT sample. Data must be reported to the PT Provider by the PT Provider’s published closing date or by **November 21, 2025**, whichever is earlier.

Can I submit my Permittee Data Report Form electronically?

States may accept scanned, signed copies of the DMR-QA Permittee Data Report package by way of e-mail. Some states such as Arkansas now offer electronic reporting of their DMR-QA Permittee Data Report package. States listed on pages 10 and 11 that are marked with a dagger-style footnote (†) offer their own electronic form of the Study 45 Data Report package.

Where do I go for more information?

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

² As of April 1, 2025, permittees in the following states have laboratory quality assurance programs approved by EPA as a substitute for DMR-QA Study 45: California, Kansas, Kentucky, New Jersey, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

³ Louisiana has an approved laboratory quality assurance program for commercial laboratories only.

⁴ NPDES permittees in Arkansas, Maine, New Hampshire, and Oklahoma that have all their wastewater laboratories covered by their state laboratory accreditation program are also exempted from DMR-QA Study 45; any permittee that has a laboratory not fully certified by the state must perform the DMR-QA study. Check with your State DMR-QA Coordinator if you have questions about your state’s waiver status.

NPDES Permittee Instructions

1. Verify that your participation in DMR-QA Study 45 is required by confirming the NPDES permit number on the front of this package or in the e-mail announcement sent to you. If you believe you received this study in error or have questions about your exemption status, contact your State DMR-QA Coordinator (pages 10-11). Please refer to Footnotes 2, 3, and 4 of the Frequently Asked Questions page (page 5) for a list of exempted states.
2. Follow the instructions on the DMR-QA Study 45 Important Notice (inside front cover of study package) and immediately confirm receipt of this package to your State DMR-QA Coordinator via postal mail or e-mail. You must submit your response no later than **July 14, 2025**. 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 15-16).
4. Ensure that each laboratory uses their U.S. EPA Laboratory Code on all reported test 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 DMR-QA Coordinator listed on page 9. Submit all requests for lab codes at least one week before the DMR-QA Study 45 end date (**August 29, 2025**) or one week prior to the PT Provider’s WP study due date 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 45. Your in-house and contract laboratories must order PT samples from an accredited PT Provider (page 9). Ensure your laboratory orders the samples early enough to allow time to perform the required analyses and send test results to the PT Provider prior to the close of DMR-QA Study 45 (**August 29, 2025**). Your laboratory should register your permit number with the PT Provider prior to **August 29, 2025**. **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 **August 29, 2025**. WP studies are only valid for DMR-QA Study 45 if the WP study meets the following requirements:
 - a. Samples are offered by an accredited PT Provider (page 9).
 - b. The WP study closed between **January 1, 2025**, and **August 29, 2025**.
 - c. The PT Provider shows the WP test 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 the permittee’s behalf to the PT Provider by the end of DMR-QA Study 45 (**August 29, 2025**). Laboratories must send ungraded data to the same PT Provider that provided the samples to the laboratory. By **September 26, 2025**, 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 the PT Provider-graded test results to them by **October 10, 2025**. Using these graded test results, permittees must fill out the Chemistry/Microbiology Analyte and WET Analyte checklists (pages 15-16) for each laboratory, indicating the analyte tests performed by the laboratory and whether the test 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 test method to you for any single analyte, you must use a separate checklist for each test method reported.
8. Follow the directions on the “NPDES Permittee Data Report Form” (Form 6400-01, pages 12-14) and complete the information. You may use a “fill and print” form available at: <https://www.epa.gov/compliance/discharge-monitoring-report-quality-assurance-study-program>. By **October 24, 2025**, you must send a copy of the signed Form 6400-01, graded test results, and completed checklists from step 7 for each of your permits to the State DMR-QA Coordinator.
 - a. However, if you (the Permittee) have verified that the PT Provider’s graded test results have been transmitted to the State DMR-QA Coordinator, you are only required to submit the signed Form 6400-01 and the applicable checklists to the State DMR-QA Coordinator. In this situation, the laboratory should provide a list of its permittees’ NPDES permit numbers associated with each required analyte to the PT Provider prior to the close of DMR-QA Study 45 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.
 - b. 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 the PT Provider-graded test results, permittees must consult with the laboratory and investigate all test results graded by the PT Provider as “Not Acceptable.” Permittees must identify and report to the State DMR-QA Coordinator the causes of any discrepancies and must describe the analytical system changes required to correct the discrepancies. If the laboratory requires a retest to satisfy the corrective action, the laboratory must use a WP study or a quick turnaround PT sample. Data must be reported to the PT Provider by the PT Provider’s published closing date or by **November 21, 2025**, whichever is earlier. Laboratories must order retesting samples by **October 10, 2025**, 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 on or before **December 5, 2025**.

Chemistry/Microbiology Laboratory Instructions

Your laboratory is designated to participate in DMR-QA Study 45 by a NPDES permittee because the permittee uses or plans to use your laboratory to perform chemistry/microbiology analyses to satisfy their NPDES permit requirements during 2025. For measurements of all pollutant parameters, especially field test parameters (pH, residual chlorine, etc.), use the same personnel and equipment as required for NPDES compliance monitoring analyses. Please ensure that your test methods/procedures follow 40 CFR part 136 regulations. Please note that 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 2025 will determine which analyses you must perform by checking the appropriate boxes on the enclosed "Chemistry/Microbiology Analyte Checklist" (page 15).
2. Order DMR-QA Study 45 chemistry and microbiology samples from one of the Proficiency Test (PT) Providers (page 9). Be sure to allow yourself enough time to perform the analyses before the closing date of DMR-QA Study 45 (**August 29, 2025**). Maintain a copy of all completed order forms for your records.

Note: You may be able to utilize the test results from a Water Pollution (WP) study to meet the requirements of DMR-QA Study 45, if all the following conditions are met:

- a. Samples are offered by an accredited PT Provider (page 9).
- b. The WP study closes between **January 1, 2025**, and **August 29, 2025**.
- c. The PT Provider shows the WP study results of each permittee's regulated analytes on the DMR-QA reporting form.

3. Each reported value must be produced from a single analytical run using the analytical system that routinely performs these analyses to produce compliance monitoring data required under your permittee's NPDES permit. Your results must not be compared with results from other independent analyses conducted by you or any other laboratory before reporting your test results to the PT Provider.
4. Record your ungraded analytical data and your EPA Lab Code on the Data Reporting Forms that you received with your test samples. Be sure to follow the PT Provider's instructions and deadlines that you received with these samples.
5. You are required to use the EPA-assigned Lab Code on all reported test results. If you need a new EPA Lab Code or need to verify your existing EPA Lab Code, please contact your EPA Regional DMR-QA Coordinator (see contact information on page 9).
6. 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 sent you the test samples. Make sure you provide the DMR-QA Study 45 or WP study results to the PT Provider by **August 29, 2025**. If you choose to use a WP study, you must report all data to the PT Provider by the PT Provider's published WP study close date, even if it is prior to the DMR-QA deadline of **August 29, 2025**. Notify the PT Provider that the WP study is being used to satisfy DMR-QA Study 45 requirements and send them copies of the analyte checklist(s) if you are reporting via hard copy.
7. The PT Provider will grade your analyses and send the graded test results to you by **September 26, 2025**. If the PT Provider is submitting graded test 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 45 or the WP study. Forward the graded test results of the analytes to the permittee by **October 10, 2025**, so the permittee can fill out the analyte checklist on page 15.
8. If any graded test results are "Not Acceptable," laboratories should coordinate with the permittee to determine the cause of that test result and identify corrective action to prevent future occurrences. If the laboratory requires a retest to satisfy the corrective action, the laboratory must use a WP study or a quick-turnaround PT sample. Data must be reported to the PT Provider by the PT Provider's published closing date or by **November 21, 2025**, whichever is earlier. Laboratories must order retest samples for "Not Acceptable" analyte test results by **October 10, 2025**. The corrective action report and graded retest results must be forwarded to the permittee as soon as possible, for the permittee is required to submit a completed corrective action report to their state DMR-QA coordinator by **December 5, 2025**.

WET Testing Laboratory Instructions

Your laboratory is designated to participate in DMR-QA Study 45 by a NPDES permittee because the permittee uses or plans to use your laboratory to perform Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) analyses during 2025. For all analytes, use the same personnel and equipment as required for NPDES permit compliance monitoring analyses. Labs should ensure that WET test methods/procedures follow instructions from your PT Provider and EPA's WET test manuals referenced below, which include both EPA's promulgated WET test methods at 40 CFR part 136 and EPA's recommended short-term chronic marine West Coast WET test methods (1995).

1. The permittee(s) determine which analyses you will perform by checking the appropriate boxes on the enclosed WET Analyte checklist (page 16). Labs should ensure that the permittee has selected the test organism(s), test conditions, and testing requirements 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 16 to select the proper WET tests.

Guidelines for Choosing the Correct WET Test Organism/Conditions/Test Endpoint(s):

- Laboratories should only report one test endpoint for each DMR-QA WET test code required.
- For laboratory performance quality assurance purposes only, the point estimation techniques that produce test endpoints such as the Inhibiting Concentration 25% (IC25) are the preferred statistical approach used for calculating test endpoints for effluent chronic toxicity tests. However, laboratories should choose the statistical approach that allows calculation of the test endpoint(s) required by the NPDES permit and are used for routine permit compliance tests. For example, if the permit specifies a No Observable Effect Concentration (NOEC) test endpoint for Survival and it is reported regularly on DMRs, this test endpoint may be reported for DMR-QA.
- If the permit requires WET testing with the Fathead minnow (*Pimephales promelas*), *Ceriodaphnia dubia*, *Daphnia magna*, *Daphnia pulex*, *Americamysis bahia* (*Mysidopsis bahia*), Inland silverside (*Menidia beryllina*) or Sheepshead minnow (*Cyprinodon variegatus*), the laboratory must test with those test organisms listed in each permit using the test conditions, including temperature, defined in the WET Test Codes.
- If the permit's WET testing conditions for *Ceriodaphnia dubia* specify 48-hr acute static renewal testing, then conduct this test using the static non-renewal conditions specified in WET Test Codes 19 and 20.
- If the permit's WET testing conditions for *Daphnia magna* and *Daphnia pulex* specify 48-hr acute static renewal testing, then conduct this test using the static non-renewal conditions specified in WET Test Codes 32 and 38.
- If the permit's WET testing conditions require 24-, 48-, or 96-hr acute testing using any of the test organisms included in Study 45, use the 48-hr acute test conditions specified in the WET Test Codes.
- If the permit requires 20°C acute testing for any test organisms included in Study 45, use 25°C acute test conditions specified in the WET Test Codes.

2. Order DMR-QA toxicity samples from an accredited PT Provider (page 9). Allow yourself enough time to perform the analyses before the closing date of DMR-QA Study 45 (**August 29, 2025**). Maintain a copy of all completed order forms for your records.
3. Each reported value must be produced from a single analytical run using the analytical system that routinely performs these analyses to produce compliance monitoring data required under your permittee's NPDES permit. Your results must not be compared with results from other independent analyses conducted by you or any other laboratory before reporting your test results to the PT Provider.
4. Record your ungraded analytical data and EPA Lab Code on the Data Report Form received with your samples. Be sure to follow the PT Provider's instructions and deadlines that you received with the samples. You must use the EPA-assigned Lab Code on all reported test results. If you need a new EPA Lab Code or need to verify your current code, contact your EPA Regional DMR-QA Coordinator (page 9).
5. 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 sent you the test samples. Make sure you provide the DMR-QA Study 45 study results by **August 29, 2025**.
6. The PT Provider will grade your test results and send them to you by **September 26, 2025**. If the PT Provider is submitting graded test 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 45 or the WP study. Forward the graded test results of the analytes to the permittee by **October 10, 2025**, so the permittee can fill out the analyte checklist on page 16.
7. If any graded test 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. If the laboratory requires a retest to satisfy the corrective action, the laboratory must use a WP study or a quick turnaround PT sample. Data must be reported to the PT Provider by their published closing date or by **November 21, 2025**, whichever is earlier. Laboratories must order retest samples for "Not Acceptable" analyte test results by **October 10, 2025**. The corrective action report and graded retest results must be forwarded to the permittee as soon as possible, for the permittee is required to submit a completed corrective action report to their state DMR-QA coordinator by **December 5, 2025**.

Reference Manuals: (see <https://www.epa.gov/cwa-methods/whole-effluent-toxicity-methods>)

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.
https://cfpub.epa.gov/si/si_public_record_report.cfm?dirEntryId=46584.

Accredited Proficiency Testing Providers

The following Proficiency Test (PT) Providers are accredited by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) or the ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB). A2LA and ANAB have each been designated a Proficiency Testing Oversight Body/Proficiency Testing Provider Accreditor by The NELAC Institute (TNI). Find the following PT Providers on the internet at: <http://www.nelac-institute.org/content/NEPTP/ptproviders.php>.

NELAC-Accredited Provider	Chem	Micro	WET
Absolute Standards, Inc., Hamden, CT Mr. Stephen Arpie (203) 281-2917 or (800) 368-1131 stephen@absolutestandards.com www.absolutestandards.com	✓	✓	
Advanced Analytical Solutions, LLC, Parkersburg, WV Fred Anderson (304) 485-6325 Fred@advancedqa.com www.advancedqa.com	✓	✓	
Environmental Resource Associates (ERA), Golden, CO (800) 372-0122 interlabgroup@waters.com ; era_info@waters.com www.eraqc.com	✓	✓	✓
New York State Department of Health Wadsworth Center, Albany, NY Amy C. DeMarco (518) 473-1398 dehspt@health.ny.gov www.wadsworth.org/programs/ehs/pt	✓	✓	
NSI Lab Solutions, Raleigh, NC Kenneth Grzybowski (800) 234-7837 Kenneth.Grzybowski@antylia.com www.nsilabsolutions.com	✓	✓	
Phenova Inc., Golden, CO (866) 942-2978 info@phenova.com www.phenova.com	✓	✓	✓

EPA Regional DMR-QA Coordinators

EPA Region 1

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**Trying to find your
State DMR-QA Coordinator?
Turn to pages 10 and 11 →**

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* Some or all permittees in these states may not be required to participate in DMR-QA Study 45 due to a full or partial waiver agreement with EPA.

† Some or all permittees in Arkansas can now submit their DMR-QA Study 45 results electronically through Arkansas DEQ's ePortal website (see website link, above).

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Your coordinator may change.

Please visit <https://www.epa.gov/compliance/state-discharge-monitoring-report-quality-assurance-dmr-ga-coordinators> and <https://www.epa.gov/compliance/regional-discharge-monitoring-report-quality-assurance-dmr-ga-coordinators> for the latest list of coordinators.

For additional questions, contact US EPA Headquarters:

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* Some or all permittees in these states may not be required to participate in DMR-QA Study 45 due to a full or partial waiver agreement with EPA.



Instructions for the NPDES Permittee Data Report Form:

1. This is a two-page form. All fields on page 13 are required to be reported except for those explicitly marked as optional.
2. **Enter** your NPDES permit number at the top of pages 13 and 14.
3. You must fill in the 2-digit **permit extension** field at the top of page 13 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 13; for example: "NPDES Permittee AL1234567-01." If there is no extension, leave this field blank.
4. **Identify** each of your laboratories on page 14, including their U.S. EPA Lab Code which is a unique identifier number assigned by EPA. (Refer to page 6, item 4 in the Study 45 package) (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 analyte checklists on pages 15-16.)
5. **Make copies** of pages 13 and 14. Attach a copy of these pages to the Chemistry/Microbiology and WET analyte checklists. Separate copies of each checklist must be filled out for each laboratory you used. Also, if a laboratory reports more than one test method to you for any single analyte, you must use a separate checklist for each test method reported. These checklists must indicate the graded test results for the analytes tested by the laboratory that are in your permit and required for DMR-QA (Acceptable or Not Acceptable). For Study 45, it is optional but encouraged to write in the approved EPA 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 15 and 16) for all analytes in your permit analyzed by a state-certified laboratory.
6. **Sign and date** the certification statement on page 13 and the applicable checklists on pages 15 and 16. Forms that do not have a signed certification statement by the permit holder or authorized representative will be considered invalid.
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 October 24, 2025.**

Paperwork Reduction Act Burden Statement. This collection of information is approved by OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.* (OMB Control No. 2080-0021). Responses to this collection of information are mandatory for Major and select Minor NPDES permit holders under Clean Water Act section 308 [33 U.S.C. § 1318]. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The public reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 6.6 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 to the *Regulatory Support Division Director, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2821T), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC 20460*. Include the OMB control number in any correspondence. Do not send the completed form to this address.



2025

NPDES Permittee Data Report Form

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

Due October 24, 2025

NPDES Permit Number (State + 7-digit ID)

Permit Extension

Permittee Name

Current Permittee Mailing Address

City

State

Zip Code

Phone Number

Fax Number

E-mail Address

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

Optional: If WP Study was used, list WP Study Number(s):

For DMR-QA Study 45, conducted in 2025, the Permittee ensured that their laboratory(ies) performing the required analyses:

Received PT Samples

YES ☐ NO ☐

Submitted Complete and Accurate Data
by August 29, 2025

YES ☐ NO ☐

Received a Graded Report by
September 26, 2025

YES ☐ NO ☐

Each reported value was produced from a single analytical run using the analytical system that routinely performs these analyses to produce compliance monitoring data under our NPDES permit.

YES ☐ NO ☐

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 U.S. EPA.

YES ☐ NO ☐

Certification by Permit Holder or Authorized Representative

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. 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 Address



United States Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
DMR-QA Study 45
(This data is collected under the authority of Section 308 of the Clean Water Act.)

OMB Control No. 2080-0021
Approval expires 08/31/2026

2025

Permittee Name	NPDES Permit Number (State + 7-digit ID) 	Permit Extension
----------------	---	------------------

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

Laboratory Name	Laboratory Address	U.S. EPA Lab Code	Lab Analysis Check box(es) that apply			Lab Type*	State-certified Lab**
			Chem	Micro	WET		
			☐	☐	☐		☐
			☐	☐	☐		☐
			☐	☐	☐		☐
			☐	☐	☐		☐
			☐	☐	☐		☐
			☐	☐	☐		☐

* Lab Types: C = Commercial; F = Federal; G = Local Government; I = Industrial; O = Other; S = State
** See Footnotes 2, 3, and 4 on page 5 (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 45

2025

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	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
E. coli, MF or MPN	☐		☐	☐	☐
Fecal Coliform, MF or MPN	☐		☐	☐	☐
Total Coliform, MF or MPN	☐		☐	☐	☐
Trace Metals	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Aluminum	☐		☐	☐	☐
Antimony	☐		☐	☐	☐
Arsenic	☐		☐	☐	☐
Barium	☐		☐	☐	☐
Beryllium	☐		☐	☐	☐
Cadmium	☐		☐	☐	☐
Chromium, total	☐		☐	☐	☐
Chromium, hexavalent	☐		☐	☐	☐
Cobalt	☐		☐	☐	☐
Copper	☐		☐	☐	☐
Iron	☐		☐	☐	☐
Lead	☐		☐	☐	☐
Manganese	☐		☐	☐	☐
Mercury	☐		☐	☐	☐
Mercury (Low-Level)	☐		☐	☐	☐
Molybdenum	☐		☐	☐	☐
Nickel	☐		☐	☐	☐
Selenium	☐		☐	☐	☐
Silver	☐		☐	☐	☐
Thallium	☐		☐	☐	☐
Vanadium	☐		☐	☐	☐
Zinc	☐		☐	☐	☐
Demands	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
5-day BOD	☐		☐	☐	☐
5-day Carbonaceous BOD	☐		☐	☐	☐
COD	☐		☐	☐	☐
TOC	☐		☐	☐	☐
Minerals	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Alkalinity, total (CaCO ₃)	☐		☐	☐	☐
Chloride	☐		☐	☐	☐
Fluoride	☐		☐	☐	☐
Hardness, total (CaCO ₃)	☐		☐	☐	☐
Specific conductance (25°C)	☐		☐	☐	☐
Sulfate	☐		☐	☐	☐
Total Dissolved Solids (180°C)	☐		☐	☐	☐
Nutrients	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ammonia as N	☐		☐	☐	☐
Nitrate as N	☐		☐	☐	☐
Nitrite as N	☐		☐	☐	☐
Orthophosphate as P	☐		☐	☐	☐
Total Kjeldahl-Nitrogen as N	☐		☐	☐	☐
Total Phosphorus as P	☐		☐	☐	☐
Misc. Analytes	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Non-Filterable Residue (TSS)	☐		☐	☐	☐
Oil and Grease	☐		☐	☐	☐
pH	☐		☐	☐	☐
Total Cyanide	☐		☐	☐	☐
Total Phenolics (4-AAP)	☐		☐	☐	☐
Total Residual Chlorine	☐		☐	☐	☐
Total Residual Chlorine (Low-Level)	☐		☐	☐	☐
Settleable Solids	☐		☐	☐	☐
Turbidity	☐		☐	☐	☐

Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____



Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Analyte Checklist

DMR-QA Study 45

2025

Analyte Number	Organism / Conditions	Endpoint	Test Required	Laboratory's Graded Result		Analyte determined by state-certified lab*
				Acceptable	Not Acceptable (Corrective Action Required)	
Test Code 13 (refer to EPA Method 2000.0)						
754	Fathead minnow (<i>Pimephales promelas</i>) - MHSF 25°C	LC50	☐	☐	☐	☐
Test Code 14 (refer to EPA Method 2000.0)						
755	Fathead minnow (<i>Pimephales promelas</i>) - 20% DMW	LC50	☐	☐	☐	☐
Test Code 15 (refer to EPA Method 1000.0)						
756	Fathead minnow (<i>Pimephales promelas</i>) - MHSF	NOEC SURVIVAL	☐	☐	☐	☐
808	Fathead minnow (<i>Pimephales promelas</i>) - MHSF	IC25** (ON) GROWTH	☐	☐	☐	☐
810	Fathead minnow (<i>Pimephales promelas</i>) - MHSF	NOEC (ON) GROWTH	☐	☐	☐	☐
Test Code 16 (refer to EPA Method 1000.0)						
759	Fathead minnow (<i>Pimephales promelas</i>) - 20% DMW	NOEC SURVIVAL	☐	☐	☐	☐
812	Fathead minnow (<i>Pimephales promelas</i>) - 20% DMW	IC25** (ON) GROWTH	☐	☐	☐	☐
814	Fathead minnow (<i>Pimephales promelas</i>) - 20% DMW	NOEC (ON) GROWTH	☐	☐	☐	☐
Test Code 19 (refer to EPA Method 2002.0)						
764	<i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i> - MHSF 25°C	LC50	☐	☐	☐	☐
Test Code 20 (refer to EPA Method 2002.0)						
765	<i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i> - 20% DMW 25°C	LC50	☐	☐	☐	☐
Test Code 21 (refer to EPA Method 1002.0)						
766	<i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i> – MHSF	NOEC SURVIVAL	☐	☐	☐	☐
767	<i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i> – MHSF	IC25** REPRODUCTION	☐	☐	☐	☐
768	<i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i> – MHSF	NOEC REPRODUCTION	☐	☐	☐	☐
Test Code 22 (refer to EPA Method 1002.0)						
769	<i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i> - 20% DMW	NOEC SURVIVAL	☐	☐	☐	☐
770	<i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i> - 20% DMW	IC25** REPRODUCTION	☐	☐	☐	☐
771	<i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i> - 20% DMW	NOEC REPRODUCTION	☐	☐	☐	☐
Test Code 32 (refer to EPA Method 2021.0)						
788	<i>Daphnia magna</i> - MHSF 25°C	LC50	☐	☐	☐	☐
Test Code 38 (refer to EPA Method 2021.0)						
794	<i>Daphnia pulex</i> - MHSF 25°C	LC50	☐	☐	☐	☐
Test Code 42 (refer to EPA Method 2007.0)						
798	Mysid (<i>Americamysis bahia</i> , <i>Mysidopsis bahia</i>) 25°C	LC50	☐	☐	☐	☐
Test Code 43 (refer to EPA Method 1007.0)						
799	Mysid (<i>Americamysis bahia</i> , <i>Mysidopsis bahia</i>)	NOEC SURVIVAL	☐	☐	☐	☐
816	Mysid (<i>Americamysis bahia</i> , <i>Mysidopsis bahia</i>)	IC25** (ON) GROWTH	☐	☐	☐	☐
818	Mysid (<i>Americamysis bahia</i> , <i>Mysidopsis bahia</i>)	NOEC (ON) GROWTH	☐	☐	☐	☐
Test Code 44 (refer to EPA Method 2006.0)						
803	Inland silverside (<i>Menidia beryllina</i>) 25°C	LC50	☐	☐	☐	☐
Test Code 45 (refer to EPA Method 1006.0)						
824	Inland silverside (<i>Menidia beryllina</i>)	NOEC SURVIVAL	☐	☐	☐	☐
825	Inland silverside (<i>Menidia beryllina</i>)	IC25** (ON) GROWTH	☐	☐	☐	☐
826	Inland silverside (<i>Menidia beryllina</i>)	NOEC (ON) GROWTH	☐	☐	☐	☐
Test Code 46 (refer to EPA Method 2004.0)						
804	Sheepshead minnow (<i>Cyprinodon variegatus</i>) 25°C	LC50	☐	☐	☐	☐
Test Code 47 (refer to EPA Method 1004.0)						
805	Sheepshead minnow (<i>Cyprinodon variegatus</i>)	NOEC SURVIVAL	☐	☐	☐	☐
820	Sheepshead minnow (<i>Cyprinodon variegatus</i>)	IC25** (ON) GROWTH	☐	☐	☐	☐
822	Sheepshead minnow (<i>Cyprinodon variegatus</i>)	NOEC (ON) GROWTH	☐	☐	☐	☐

Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

* See Footnotes 2 through 4 on page 5

** Preferred endpoint for DMR-QA performance test reporting

Complete a separate checklist for EACH lab.