



## Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

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800-657-3864 | 651-282-5332 TTY | [www.pca.state.mn.us](http://www.pca.state.mn.us) | Equal Opportunity Employer

RE: Government, Municipal and Industrial Laboratory Registration

Dear Laboratory Community:

On January 1, 2013, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) will implement a registration program for all Minnesota municipal, government or industrial laboratories that are not commercial, who perform analysis for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit compliance or water quality work. The MPCA is starting this program at the request of the regulated community. The MPCA registration program will include a laboratory auditing and assistance process that replaces Minnesota Department of Health's (MDH) accreditation program. Registration in this program fully satisfies requirements for laboratory work as required in the NPDES permit.

Three major points of the MPCA registration program are:

- The MPCA program will be the only regulatory oversight for government, municipal or industrial laboratories performing NPDES or water quality work.
- MDH accreditation is not required for the government, municipal or industrial laboratories performing NPDES/water quality work.
- MPCA registration is required for government, municipal, or industrial laboratories performing NPDES work.

The MPCA is working out the details of a fee structure for this registration program. MPCA anticipates the fee structure will result in lower costs to laboratories in the MPCA registration program.

The MPCA will not be modifying existing permits to incorporate this policy change to require MDH certification for commercial laboratories, or as of January 1, 2013, registration for a government, municipal or industrial laboratory performing analytical work for a NPDES permit(s). Instead, MPCA Compliance and Enforcement staff have been notified that permit language may continue to say MDH lab certification is required; however, MPCA lab registration will suffice. New permits being issued/reissued will contain language that implements this policy change.

Please note that the MPCA will not register drinking water laboratories, drinking water methods run by wastewater laboratories, or commercial laboratories. These laboratories must maintain certification with the MDH's Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program.

More specific information will be available soon. The MPCA registration process will be available starting this November, 2012, for coverage in calendar year 2013. Please direct questions to [qa.questions.mPCA@state.mn.us](mailto:qa.questions.mPCA@state.mn.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Lisa J. Thorvig", is positioned above the typed name.

Lisa J. Thorvig  
Division Director  
Municipal Division

LJT/LC:jab