

OK DEQ LAP NEWSLETTER

4TH QUARTER OF 2023

WELCOME TO THE FIRST
OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LABORATORY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM
(OK DEQ LAP)
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER!



We are excited to be entering a promising new era to better serve you.



You deserve customer-oriented service, and the initiation of a quarterly newsletter is just one small piece of our plan to build the program to be more effective and sustainable in this direction.

First off, we would like to introduce ourselves. Currently the OK DEQ LAP team consists of:



Taryn Hurley
LAP Manager



Ryan Lerch
LAP Assessor

&

Taryn Hurley – LAP Manager



I joined the LAP in September 2021 and was entrusted with management of the program in April 2023.

I also assist in our statewide efforts for uniformity in compliance data through performing accreditation assessments as well as internal audits for the OK DEQ laboratory.

Since my arrival on the team, I have become a class A laboratory water and wastewater operator, EPA inorganic and organic chemistry drinking water certification officer, and TNI assessor.

I am a proud graduate of the University of Central Oklahoma with my Bachelor of Science in Chemistry Health-Sciences, and I got my start in public health right out of college by working for the Oklahoma Blood Institute and then as an inorganic analytical chemist analyzing environmental water samples for Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (ODAFF.)

Later on, I became the laboratory quality assurance manager (QAM) at ODAFF. (Yes, Ryan and I did have some overlap in our respective times there!)

As QAM, I managed, maintained, and grew three different quality systems that spanned five laboratories and covered testing such as environmental water chemistry and microbiology, food and dairy microbiology, feed and fertilizer chemistry, pesticides and herbicides residue and formulations chemistry, hemp potency, and metrological calibration.

These utilized regulations and requirements across several organizations that included EPA, FDA, USDA, ISO, and NVLAP.

As a lifelong Oklahoman, I am passionate about our state and people. I will bring that passion and enthusiasm to work with you and incorporate your feedback to ensure the quality and effectiveness of the labs and the LAP.

I look forward to working together!

Ryan Lerch - LAP Assessor



I have been with the LAP for a little over seven years now. Since joining the LAP, I have met a lot of great folks and seen a wide variety of perspectives as I have had the opportunity to visit labs all over the state.

I even perform select audits for the OK DEQ laboratory to help ensure that all compliance environmental laboratories in the state are held to the same standards. In my time here, I have gone through so much training as an EPA drinking water certification officer, TNI assessor, class A laboratory water and wastewater operator, and much more.

I am consistently learning new things and working hard on training because this job encompasses a lot and is always growing!

Prior to DEQ, I grew up in Tulsa, achieved my Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from the University of Oklahoma, and then spent ten years at the ODAFF as a chemist and laboratory manager of the General Chemistry section.

My work at ODAFF entailed inorganics, metals, select organics, and a small amount of microbiology.

As a dedicated environmental scientist and assessor, I look forward to continuing our work and growing with you all!



NEXT, WE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE YOU INFORMATION RELATED TO OUR RULES TO KEEP YOU IN THE LOOP.



CURRENT RULES:

We have three sets of rules, one for each of the accreditation programs.

- 1) Oklahoma Administrative Code (OAC) [252:301](#) governs our state accreditation program.
- 2) OAC [252:302](#) governs our field laboratory accreditation program.
- 3) OAC [252:307](#) governs our national TNI accreditation program.

All three rules were updated last year, effective September 15, 2022, to incorporate the 2021 EPA Methods Update Rule in [40 CFR 136](#).

The most significant change that arose from this update is that the methods now available for analysis of wastewater have been updated.



Many of the approved wastewater methods from the Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater (SM) are now those from the 23rd edition, and even the inorganic methods from SM that did not receive a revision must now use the quality control (QC) sections from the 23rd edition of SM (e.g., the approved SM pH method is still SM 4500-H+ B-2011 but has new requirements in SM 4020 B-2014).

The QC sections for SM are all freely available online at <https://www.standardmethods.org/>.

When viewing the QC sections online, SM shows the most recent version which currently is the 24th edition.

To view the QC sections for the 23rd edition, you must select the "Previous Versions" tab, and then select the most recent year number present under that tab.

Home » Part 4000 » 4020 QUALITY ASSURANCE/QUALITY CONTROL

4020 QUALITY ASSURANCE/QUALITY CONTROL

Abstract Full Text References **Previous Versions** PDF/EPUB

- [4020 quality assurance.quality control \(2014\).pdf](#)
- [4020 quality assurance.quality control \(20th edition\).pdf](#)
- [4020 quality assurance.quality control \(additional revisions, 2011\).pdf](#)

FUTURE RULES:



We are in the process of updating all three of our accreditation rules again. If approved as proposed, they will provide the following impacts:

- The accreditation period will change to January through December.
- The annual renewal application deadline will change to September 15th.
- The annual renewal application fee payment deadline will change to December 15th
- Remove allowance for accepting late applications as well as the late fee system – so please take whatever measures are needed (calendar reminders work wonders!) so the laboratory meets the deadline.
- Provide allowance for LAP to offer accreditation for new EPA-approved methods without us needing to change OAC rules first. This will provide the laboratories more flexibility in method selection and will allow them to become accredited for newly regulated contaminants or methods much sooner.
- Standardize and clarify language across all rules.

We want your feedback and input as we move forward in rulemaking.



Here are some options for how to learn more about the proposed changes and how to participate in developing the rules – let your voice be heard!

1. View the proposed rules on the DEQ website: <https://www.deq.ok.gov/council-meeting-single/?meetingid=MTYxNzY=>
2. Attend the Zoom meeting hosted by Taryn and Ryan on describing the proposed changes and impacts, how to provide comments and feedback, and answering your questions.
Meeting invitations will be sent via email to the point of contact(s) on record for each accredited laboratory.
3. Submit comments and feedback on the proposed changes to Taryn in writing either at Taryn.Hurley@deq.ok.gov, or via mail at 707 N Robinson Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73102
There is a 30-day comment period during the month of December 2023.
4. Attend the Water Quality Advisory Council meeting on January 9, 2024.
5. Attend the Environmental Quality Board meeting on February 13, 2024.



LASTLY:

We welcome year-round feedback on the program and your experiences related to accreditation.

Please always feel free to submit feedback to us directly using the contact information at the end of the newsletter or anonymously using our online feedback survey:

<https://www.deq.ok.gov/state-environmental-laboratory-services/laboratory-accreditation/quality-systems-information/sels-feedback-survey/>

Do you have questions? We want to help!

When you come across a question about accreditation, approved methods, or technical concerns, please reach out to us.

We will help in every way that we can.

- Email: LabAccreditation@deq.ok.gov
- Phone: 405-702-1000, option 5
- Mail: 707 N. Robinson Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73102

