

# OK DEQ LAP NEWSLETTER

1ST QUARTER OF 2024



Happy spring, and welcome back to the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality Laboratory Accreditation Program quarterly newsletter!

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Let's start with following up on discussion about accreditation rule updates from our last newsletter.

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## Rulemaking

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We experienced some unexpected delays during our attempt to pursue rulemaking in winter.

However, as of March 15, 2024, we officially have draft text published for all three accreditation programs!

Now that our proposed changes are published in the State Register, [Volume 41, Issue 13](#), the public comment period is open until April 30, 2024.

We want and need your feedback and input as we move through this process! We want to ensure that the changes we are making will serve you and your organization while upholding high data quality standards.

## Ways for you to get involved in our rulemaking and let your voice be heard!

View the proposed draft text and the notice of rulemaking intent (NRI) for each Chapter here: <https://www.deq.ok.gov/council-meeting-single/?meetingid=MTYyOTU=>

Provide written comment to Taryn Hurley by April 30, 2024.

- E-mail: [Taryn.Hurley@deq.ok.gov](mailto:Taryn.Hurley@deq.ok.gov)
- Mail:  
707 N. Robinson,  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Attend the Water Quality Advisory Council meeting at Oklahoma DEQ on April 30, 2024.

Attend the Environmental Quality Board meeting at Oklahoma DEQ on June 11, 2024.

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## Attend one of our informal meetings:

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- March 26, 2024, 1:30 PM:  
Oklahoma DEQ, 707 N. Robinson, Oklahoma City, OK 73102
- March 28, 2024, 9:30 AM:  
Mohawk Water Treatment Plant Auditorium, 3600 East Mohawk Blvd., Tulsa, OK 74115
- April 17, 2024, 10:00 AM CDT:  
Virtual Zoom Meeting
  - Invites will be sent to the primary point of contact for each accredited laboratory within two weeks of the meeting.
  - Please share with your team as you see fit, but be mindful that Zoom meeting capacity is limited. It will be advised to share a screen with your colleagues as you are able.

**As we discussed in the last newsletter, if approved, the proposed rulemaking will provide the following changes:**

- 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.
  - There will be no changes to fees or how fees are assessed.
- 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.
- Allow for up to three years between assessments for laboratories under the state program (OAC 252:301).
- Provide clarification of PT requirements.
  - There will be no changes to PT frequency requirements.

## Trainings:

A frequent struggle for environmental laboratories is training. Whether it's due to staff turnover, organizational change, ever-shifting environmental and public health needs, or a combination of these, the need for more training is nearly always present for us.

The Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) performed a survey of 82 laboratory section leads and supervisors between September and October 2023 and found that only 1% of respondents felt that they had no training needs.

- You can review their summary report here:

<https://www.aphl.org/aboutAPHL/publications/Documents/QSA-2023-EH-TNA.pdf>

As your accreditation body, we want to be a part of the solution to close this training gap, especially where it meets with how you interact with us. We never want our requirements, operations, or accreditation options to be a surprise to you.

With this in mind, we have assembled a very short anonymous survey to help us ensure that we focus on the areas that you would most like to see training in first. Please complete the below survey by May 15, 2024.

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Oklahoma DEQ Laboratory  
Accreditation Training Topics



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](mailto:LabAccreditation@deq.ok.gov)

Phone: 405-702-1000, option 5

Mail: 707 N. Robinson Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73102

