

# OK DEQ LAP NEWSLETTER

*2nd* QUARTER OF 2024



HAPPY  
SUMMER  
AND  
SUNSHINE!

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## UPDATES:

- Renewal Applications
  - Meet our Newest Team Member
  - Rulemaking
  - Federal Updates
  - Training Survey
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While you're hopefully staying cool and hydrated, we have some updates for you from the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality Laboratory Accreditation Program (OK DEQ LAP)!

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## Renewal Applications

Please remember to submit your renewal application by July 15, 2024!

Currently, we have only received about a third of our expected renewal applications based on the number of laboratories currently in the program.

If we receive an application after July 15, 2024, we will have to process it as an initial application which will result in higher fees and the possibility of a lapse in accreditation.

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What must be submitted by July 15th if the laboratory wants to remain accredited?

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- Physically signed and complete application (email submission is acceptable, just no digital signatures)
- Clear identification of parameters sought for accreditation
  - This is easily accomplished through use of the application spreadsheets on our website: <https://www.deq.ok.gov/state-environmental-laboratory-services/laboratory-accreditation/>
- **IF** you are accredited through the Field (soon to be Industrial Discharge) program, the State program, or the TNI program as primary accreditation, also submit any documents that have been updated in the past year such as your quality manual and SOPs.
- **IF** you are accredited through the TNI program as secondary accreditation, also submit your current scope and certificate from your primary accreditation body.

## Renewal Applications (CONT.)

What doesn't need to be submitted by July 15th for renewal accreditation?

- Renewal fees! We are going to generate the renewal invoices based on your application this year, so there is no need to submit fees with your renewal application.
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When will renewal fees be due?

- The deadline for payment will be established after invoices have been sent out. The deadline will be at least eight weeks from when invoices are sent.

## Meet Keven!



We hired a new assessor!  
Keven Stone joined the OK DEQ LAP team recently and we are very happy to finally be fully staffed once more! Due to the steep learning curve and training needs of becoming a laboratory assessor, it may be a while before he visits you, but please help us to make him feel welcome!

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“I was invited to join the LAP in June 2024 and am looking forward to seeing some of your laboratories!

I grew up in the boonies here in Oklahoma, digging potatoes with Grandpa and noodling with Dad, and so have a great appreciation and respect for the environment we have. I graduated with a Bachelor of Science from the University of Central Oklahoma and have spent the last 15 years, since I was 19, working in various laboratories including production, research and development, toxicology, and routine testing. My analytical experience includes a wide array of physical and chemical analysis, with a bit of microbiology testing. Having experienced ISO 9001 and 17025 audits and assessments from the bench side, I am looking forward to learning the assessment side of laboratory operations and using my knowledge to improve the process.

Once certified, I look forward to offering technical assistance to ensure accurate, defensible data is reliably produced as well as learning as much as possible from you all, the boots on the ground!”

## Rulemaking

Thank you all so much for your participation through the rulemaking process this spring. Across the two in-person meetings and the virtual meeting, we had a total of 54 attendees! Your engagement with the process significantly helped us.

On April 30, 2024, the Water Quality Management Advisory Council unanimously recommended all three draft chapters to the Environmental Quality Board (EQB). On June 11, 2024, the EQB unanimously adopted all three chapters.

Our next step of the rulemaking process is waiting while our chapters go to the state legislature and then hopefully signed into law by the governor. Our expected promulgation date is still September 2025.

We will keep you all informed as we have more information through this process.



## Federal Updates

### PFAS:

Some polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) have been officially established as drinking water contaminants by the EPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water. Effective June 25, 2024, five individual PFAS compounds and one mixture of PFAS compounds are regulated as drinking water contaminants.

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### Quick Information:

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- EPA summary and resources of the regulation:  
<https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>
- Public water systems have three years to complete initial monitoring for these regulated PFAS.
- Due to current rules, OK DEQ LAP cannot yet offer accreditation for the regulated analytes by the approved methods. The earliest possible date for us being able to begin offering accreditation for these parameters is September 2025 with the promulgation of our revised chapters.

## Federal Updates

### Clean Water Act Method Update Rule:

The Clean Water Act has implemented a new method update rule (MUR), effective June 17, 2024.



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### Quick Information:

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- EPA Federal Register listing: <https://www.govinfo.gov/cont ent/pkg/FR-2024-04-16/pdf/2024-07412.pdf>
- Primary changes include incorporation of Standard Methods 24th Edition, revised EPA methods for microbiological analysis, and incorporation of alternative test procedures.
- Due to current rules, OK DEQ LAP cannot yet offer accreditation for these newly approved methods. The earliest possible date for us being able to begin offering accreditation for these methods is September 2025 with the promulgation of our revised chapters.

## Federal Updates

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### Quick Information:

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#### Methylene Chloride Regulation:

EPA has finalized a rule limiting the use, purchase, and manufacturing of methylene chloride (MeCl<sub>2</sub>), effective July 8, 2024.



### **Methylene chloride**

- EPA Final Risk Evaluation:  
<https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/final-risk-evaluation-methylene-chloride>
- EPA Risk Management:  
<https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/risk-management-methylene-chloride>
- Laboratory usage is classified under Industrial and Commercial Use as a Laboratory Chemical and will be allowed if the laboratory has a Workplace Chemical Protection Program (WCPP) for MeCl<sub>2</sub> that meets federal requirements in place.
  - An aspect of the WCPP and continued usage of MeCl<sub>2</sub> includes performing initial ambient air monitoring for MeCl<sub>2</sub> within 360 days of the effective date (before July 3, 2025).

# Training Survey

Thank you to everybody who participated in our training survey! Your input is priceless to us as we work to serve you.

About two-thirds of the respondents selected “Common Issues Found in Laboratory Quality Systems” training as their first choice for an OK DEQ LAP training. As such, this training is under development to be hopefully conducted live virtually over Zoom in the fall.

Please stay tuned for future updates!

Thank you all for your attention and we hope that you have a wonderful summer!

Please reach out with any questions, comments, or concerns. We’re here to help.

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

