

1st Quarter of 2025

# OK DEQ LAP NEWSLETTER

## Happy Spring!

As we all continue to adjust to the Daylight Savings time shift and the changing weather, we hope that you take a few minutes of peace and read some small updates from the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality Laboratory Accreditation Program (OK DEQ LAP).



## EPA Clean Water Act Method Update Rule (MUR) Status Update

The MUR was published in the federal register on January 21, 2025.

The public comment deadline was extended to March 24, 2025.

So, if you have yet to make your voice heard on these proposed changes, you still have an opportunity!

For instructions and further information, please visit the resources below:

EPA Webpage: <https://www.epa.gov/cwa-methods/methods-update-rules>

EPA Fact Sheet: [https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-12/mur-22-proposal-fact-sheet\\_december-2024.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-12/mur-22-proposal-fact-sheet_december-2024.pdf)

Federal Register Notice: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2025-01-21/pdf/2024-29239.pdf>

## What is the LAP working on right now?

We have a variety of current projects that we are actively pursuing to provide a better accreditation experience paired with excellent customer service and technical assistance.

These include:

- Fully training our newest assessor to ensure competency and to enable more assessments each quarter. This will allow us to recover from the delayed assessments resulting from staffing shortages and the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Creation and publication of accreditation guidance documents, including checklists of Oklahoma Administrative Code (OAC) accreditation requirements for both quality manuals and standard operating procedures.
- Creation of laboratory training for accredited laboratories on common concerns such as how to make application, what's involved in an assessment, and how to handle proficiency tests.
  - Long-time readers will remember our training survey from last year where you selected that “Common Issues Found in Laboratory Quality Systems” as a training that you would like us to provide. This is the first one that we are planning on sharing!
- Planning and development for ensuring a smooth renewal application process for 2025.
  - Related to this, we will not be issuing renewal invoices this spring. Due to our expected OAC rule updates, we will be sending out information this summer for renewal application instructions, and applications will be due by September 15, 2025.
- Planning and development for future rule changes to ensure continued growth, accessibility, and utility for our accredited community and Oklahoma.



Thank you for your time, attention, patience, and flexibility as we move towards a brighter future together.

Please reach out with any questions, comments, or concerns.