



# ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

1021 NORTH GRAND AVENUE EAST, P.O. BOX 19276, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62794-9276 • (217) 782-3397

JB PRITZKER, GOVERNOR

JOHN J. KIM, DIRECTOR

## **IL ELAP Update to Accredited Labs: March 14, 2024**

This note is intended to provide an update to all Illinois (Primary) labs accredited by the Illinois Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (IL ELAP).

### **1. 2024 On-Site Assessment and IL ELAP Updates....**

- We have hired Joshua Pritchard as one of our new Laboratory Quality Specialist 1's, he is a Chemist that previously worked in the IEPA Laboratory. He is already at US EPA taking the Drinking Water Certification Officer Course this week for both Organic and Inorganic Chemistry. In June he will take the TNI Basic Assessor's course.
- Currently, the new On-Site Schedule is being reviewed and updated. I hope to contact the laboratories that will have May, June and July On-Site Assessments this week and get information out to everyone by next week.

### **2. Adding new methods to your laboratory's scope:**

- IEPA LAU will work with your laboratory to get new methods requiring on-site assessments scheduled as soon as possible. (Any new technologies that have not been assessed previously require an on-site assessment).
- IEPA LAU requires the following items submitted before a date can even be discussed:
  - i. SOP for the new method
  - ii. MDL's
  - iii. Analysts IDOCs and continuing DOCs if applicable
  - iv. Data packet/test report examples
  - v. Two passing PTs

### **3. IEPA LAU is hiring:**

- Our unit is in the process of hiring a second new assessor. The title on the State of Illinois Job site is Laboratory Quality Specialist 1 (LQS 1). If you know someone in the Springfield area or that would like to live in the Springfield area, share the information about the position please.
- More information about the position and benefits the State of Illinois offers can be provided if warranted.

### **4. Retirement/sailing into the sunset.**

- Mr. Dave Reed's last day here at the IEPA LAU was February 4, 2024. He has contacted some of you, the poor guy has traded in his snow shovel for a beach chair in Mexico. We will miss Dave's input and assessing skills but wish him well.

### **5. Most Common Nonconformities seen on assessments.**

- Using portions of one method and mixing with another similar method. This is not allowed, even if more stringent requirements are being used.
- Clear documentation of non-accredited analytes/methods.
- Not enough standard concentration levels for the calibration curve.

- Not documenting pH of samples at sample receiving.
- Laboratories reporting data below the lowest calibration standard.

## 6. Measurement Traceability

Suitable ways to obtain traceability of measurement results. Accredited laboratories can achieve traceability by using certified reference materials obtained from competent providers accredited to ISO 17034 standards, calibrations to the SI units (such as for NIST-traceable weight in grams and temperature in Celsius / Kelvin degrees), and standardizations of secondary standards with primary standards. Additionally, the TNI standard related to measurement traceability is V1, M2, 5.6.

Please feel free to take the survey to let us know how we are doing:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WWDDHLM>

### IL ELAP Staff

Millie Rose	Laboratory Accreditation Unit, Supervisor	<a href="mailto:mildred.rose@illinois.gov">mildred.rose@illinois.gov</a>	(217) 557-0274
Joshua Pritchard	Laboratory Quality Specialist 1	<a href="mailto:joshua.pritchard@illinois.gov">joshua.pritchard@illinois.gov</a>	(217) 785-5163
Open Position	Laboratory Quality Specialist 1		

Please recommend any topics for our Laboratory Communication Newsletter. Chances are if you have a question about something, someone else does, too.

[EPA.LAU@illinois.gov](mailto:EPA.LAU@illinois.gov)