pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Bureau of Laboratories

09/17/2020

RE: Cyanotoxins Accreditation

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Laboratory Accreditation Program ("Department") is now accepting applications for accreditation of Cyanotoxins to support Harmful Algae Bloom ("HAB") and Cyanobacteria/Cyanotoxin Monitoring in Pennsylvania. Accreditation for Cyanotoxins will be offered in the Drinking Water and Non-Potable Water matrices as described below. Laboratories may choose to submit applications for either primary or secondary accreditation for Cyanotoxins as required by 25 Pa. Code Chapter 252, Subchapter B.

Application Forms:
Laboratories may apply for accreditation by completing a Part 1-Initial/Renewal application or a Part 4-Addition of Field of Accreditation Application as appropriate. Applications and Instructions for completing the application can be found at www.depweb.state.pa.us/labs by selecting "Laboratory Accreditation Program" under Lab Topics.

Secondary Applications:
The Department will accept applications for secondary accreditation from laboratories that have been granted accreditation from a primary AB (NELAP).

Primary Applications:
The Department will accept applications for primary accreditation (State or NELAP). The Department will evaluate and accept applications for primary accreditation based on the following priority:

1) Laboratories physically located in Pennsylvania.
2) Laboratories physically located outside of Pennsylvania whose primary accreditation Body ("AB") or home state will not offer accreditation for Cyanotoxins.
3) The Department does not plan to accept primary accreditation from laboratories physically located outside Pennsylvania whose primary AB or home state will offer accreditation for Cyanotoxins.

On-Site Assessments:
Beginning in September 2020, the Department plans to begin performing assessments to support Cyanotoxin monitoring. Laboratories seeking to obtain primary accreditation (State or NELAP) will be required to participate in an assessment or supplemental assessment that will be performed in accordance with the requirements at the 2016 TNI Standard, and/or 25 Pa. Code Chapter 252, including the matrix/method/analyte combinations below:

Laboratory Test Methods/Matricies/Categories

- Microcystin-LA, microcystin-LF, microcystin-LR, microcystin-LY, microcystin-RR, microcystin-YR, and nodularin-R by EPA Method 544 – Determination of Microcystins and

Nodularin in Drinking Water by Solid Phase Extraction and Liquid Chromatography/Tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC/MS/MS) [Category: Extractable and Semivolatile Organic Chemicals],

- Cylindrospermopsin and Anatoxin-a by EPA Method 545 - Determination of Cylindrospermopsin and Anatoxin-a in Drinking Water by Liquid Chromatography Electrospray Ionization Tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC/ESI-MS/MS) [Category: Extractable and Semivolatile Organic Chemicals], and
- Total Microcystin by EPA Method 546 - Determination of Total Microcystins and Nodularins in Drinking Water and Ambient Water by Adda Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) [Category: Complex Microbiology].

Supervisor Qualifications:

The laboratory must submit evidence of a qualified laboratory supervisor or technical director for the method/analyte combinations in the form of a Part 3-Supervisor application. Applications and Instructions for completing the application can be found at www.depweb.state.pa.us/labs by selecting "Laboratory Accreditation Program" under Lab Topics.

Initial Demonstration of Capability:

Applicants will not be required to participate in proficiency testing (PT) studies prior to accreditation. In lieu of a PT requirement, the laboratory must submit an initial demonstration of capability. PTs may be required in the future.