*"Our mission is to develop and deliver timely, accurate analytical information in support of Pennsylvania's environmental protection programs and to help assure the quality of statewide laboratory services through laboratory certification and improvement activities."*

**Analytical Testing Certification**

The Bureau of Laboratories maintains certification for various analytical testing parameters with the US EPA Region 3 Water Supply Laboratory Certification Authority and the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP) through the accrediting bodies of both the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection:

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| **Main Laboratory** |
| Certification for analytical testing of inorganic, organic, bacteriological, and radioactive substances present in air, drinking water, non-potable water, and solid environmental samples. |
| **Mobile Analytical Units** |
| Certification for analytical testing of organic substances present in air, drinking water, non-potable water, and solid environmental samples. |

Management Support

The management support staff handles daily laboratory operations that pertain to maintenance of office and laboratory supplies, tracking budget through purchasing, contract and billing functions, filing and retention of records, and sample sheet data entry. In addition, the staff coordinates training, travel, and personnel actions for Bureau employees, maintains the Bureau website, and facilitates Right to Know requests.

**Recent Special Projects**

1) In February 2013, the Division of Water Quality Standards in the Bureau of Point and Non-Point Source Management announced the **2013 Proposed Susquehanna Sampling Plan** to further develop sampling methodologies for larger surface waters and to provide a sound, scientifically defensible assessment of the Susquehanna River and two other Pennsylvania surface waters. For this project, the BOL is analyzing algal cellular nutrients, water chemistry parameters, and diatom populations.

2) In April 2013, DEP’s Bureau of Radiation Protection launched a year-long study, **Comprehensive Oil and Gas Development Radiation Study**, to surveythe naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM) and technically enhanced NORM (TENORM) related to the oil and gas activityacross the state. These materials are naturally present in shale formations and can impact many aspects of conventional and unconventional drilling processes and their waste products. The BOL is using gamma, alpha, and beta spectroscopic techniques to identify and quantify TENORM in over 1700 solid and aqueous samples for the study. In addition, tritium and radon analyses are being conducted.