



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202-2733

SEP 19 2011

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUEST: (7004 1160 0003 0357 2184)

Chris Piehler, Administrator
Inspections Division
Office of Environmental Compliance
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 4312
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4312

**DEQ
SURVEILLANCE
SEP 27 2011
RECEIVED**

Re: Request from Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for DMR-QA Program
Partial Participation Waiver

Dear Mr. Piehler:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has received your letter, dated July 8, 2011, requesting that EPA grant the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) a partial waiver from participation in the Discharge Monitoring Report Quality Assurance Program (DMR-QA).

As stated in your letter, LDEQ also administers the Louisiana Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (LELAP) that serves a similar purpose to the DMR-QA program. requiring permittees and certified analytical laboratories to participate in both the DMR-QA program and LELAP is a duplicative and costly effort. Elimination of this requirement for those permittees who utilize LELAP certified laboratories to analyze their Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) samples would reduce costs for both the permittees and the State of Louisiana.

LDEQ has provided documentation of an effective commercial laboratory accreditation program implemented pursuant to Louisiana Administrative Code (LAC) Title 33, Part I, Subpart 3, Chapters 45 – 59. Furthermore, EPA has confirmed that all the analysts covered by the DMR-QA program are included in the LELAP. The waiver request will apply only to those parameters performed by LELAP accredited laboratories. Permittees will still be required to participate in the DMR-QA program for all parameters performed by in-house laboratories.

To address appropriate oversight of the effectiveness of the accreditation program, LDEQ proposes to submit an annual report to EPA Region 6 including the following information: 1) number of laboratories in the accreditation program; 2) number of audits conducted; and 3) status of proficiency testing (PT) samples analyzed. Should substantial changes occur within the laboratory accreditation program, LDEQ will notify EPA Region 6 in writing of the changes. Furthermore, EPA would also request that LDEQ include in this annual report a summary of the

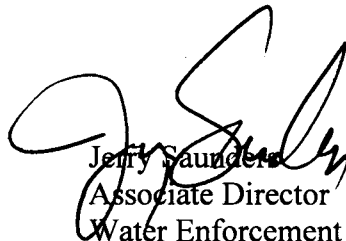
Re: Partial Participation Waiver Request 2
LDEQ

pass/fail rates of the DMR-QA analysts for those in-house laboratories remaining in the DMR-QA program. This annual report summary should be provided to the following EPA Region 6 staff: Craig Weeks (6EN-X), Mona Bates (6EN-WM), and Charles Wren (6EN-WC).

Based upon the information provided and assurances made by LDEQ, EPA grants this request for a partial waiver from the DMR-QA program. This withdrawal shall become effective after the completion of DMR-QA Study 31, which was initiated via a December 21, 2010, announcement letter. LDEQ has committed to coordinate with the National DMR-QA Coordinator to provide a list of permittees not fully covered by this waiver request.

If you have any questions regarding our approval of your partial waiver request, please contact Mona Bates of my staff, at (214) 665-7152 or Craig Weeks, DMR-QA Regional Coordinator, at (214) 665-7505.

Sincerely,



Jerry Saunders
Associate Director
Water Enforcement Branch (6EN-W)

cc: Sandy Wackett, Office of Environmental Compliance, LDEQ
Paul Bergeron, Office of Environmental Compliance, LDEQ
Brian Krausz, DMR-QA Coordinator, OECA, Office of Compliance (2223A)

bc: Craig Weeks, DMR-QA Regional Coordinator (6EN-X)
Charles Wren, NPDES Compliance Sections (6EN-WC)