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Bureau of Resource Protection
Division of Water Supply (DEP/BRP/DWS) Policy 87-18
DEP Sampling and Analysis for Public Water Systems

Effective Date: 10-8-96

Policy, SOP or Guidance #87-18

Program Applicability:

Supersedes Policy, SOP or Guidance #:

Approved by: Arleen O'Donnell

Background and Rationale

This policy is adopted to clarify the role of the Division in the performance of sampling and analytical services for Public Water Supplies (PWS). Historically DEP, through the Wall Experiment Station (WES), provided routine and special free analytical services to PWSs for sanitary chemistry, inorganic chemistry, etc. Since discontinuing this service DEP has required PWSs to obtain the services of a Massachusetts or EPA certified laboratory for all routine analyses. This policy spells out situations under which DEP will participate in some or all aspects of sample collection and analysis.

Policy

1. It is the policy of the Division to request that WES continue to provide analytical services for state owned facilities (microbiology only), quality assurance split samples (microbiology only) and enforcement samples (all analytes).
2. It is the policy of the Division to require PWSs to procure analytical services from a Massachusetts or EPA certified laboratory for any and all testing, including pump testing.
3. It is the policy of the Division, when there is an imminent threat to public health, to arrange for WES analytical support and/or regional staff sampling assistance to any PWS, including privately owned community or non-community PWSs.
4. It is the policy of the Division, when there is no imminent threat to public health to:
 - A. Direct the PWS to perform all monitoring deemed necessary by the Division to ensure a fit and pure water supply, when contamination is suspected.

- B. Encourage the municipality to apply for contamination correction funds or other appropriate DEP funding to cover the analytical costs, when contamination of a municipal PWS is suspected.
- C. Assist in coordinating sampling and analysis through other DEP programs or a FIT Contractor, when a 21E site is considered to be the possible source of contamination of municipally or privately owned PWSs or private wells.
- D. Assist, when requested, other DEP Divisions in the assessment and performance of drinking water sampling and monitoring.

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Arlene O'Donnell, Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Resource Protection