



Ensuring Drinking Water and Wastewater Samples are Done on Time by an Accredited Laboratory

Under current legislation, each drinking water and wastewater operation regulated by Saskatchewan Environment (SE) responsible for submitting water samples results to the department on a schedule set out in the conditions of their permit to operate. Not submitting sample results or not submitting results on time means the waterworks is no longer in compliance with their permit to operate, and operators/owners may be subject to follow-up action.

Historically, Saskatchewan Health's Provincial Laboratory carried out all of the bacteriological and most chemical water sample analysis free of charge for regulated waterworks across the province. Other laboratories conducted water chemical tests for a fee. The Provincial Laboratory has implemented a fee-for-service policy and it now charges for all types of water sample tests including bacteriological.

The waterworks operators now find themselves in a competitive market situation when it comes to choosing which laboratory to do their water sample tests. The only condition SE places on the laboratories used by regulated waterworks is that they be accredited in accordance with regulatory requirements to carry out the specific water test. Please see http://saskh2o.ca/WaterServices_WaterTesting.asp to view a list of accredited laboratories in Saskatchewan.

SE reminds drinking water and wastewater owners and operators to ensure the laboratory they choose to do their water samples is accredited to do that test, and that the laboratory sends sample bottles and correct labels out to the operation in a timely fashion. This will ensure samples are tested on time and results are submitted to SE as per the conditions set out in the operation's permit to operate.

Please work with your laboratory to ensure that it understands the sampling requirements set out by your permit, and that it sends the sample bottles to you on time. The owner or operator of a water/wastewater works must direct the laboratory to provide tests results to SE as soon as the results become available.

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