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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

333 W. Nye Lane, Room 138
Carson City, Nevada 89706

May 8, 2005

To: Nevada Certified Laboratory Directors

From: Environmental Laboratory Services
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection

Re: **IMPORTANT GUIDANCE REGARDING THE USE OF NEVADA CERTIFIED LABORATORIES**

Attention Laboratory Directors and Interested Parties,

This notice is to provide further clarification of *Senate Bill 58, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act* (RCRA) laboratory certification, *Clean Water Act* (CWA) laboratory certification and *Safe Drinking Water Act* (SDWA) laboratory certification.

CWA

If the non-potable water sample is collected for compliance with a NPDES permit the Clean Water Act (CWA) (40CFR136.3) methods apply (generally they are surface waters). Laboratories reporting this data for compliance purposes must be CWA certified. However, some permits specify Solid Waste (SW) 846 methodology and in those cases RCRA laboratory certification is required.

Some environmental and laboratory professionals believe that they must obtain hazardous waste certification to analyze water by the 600 series (CWA) methodology. This is not the case, if the laboratory is certified under the *Clean Water Act* for approved methods found in 40CFR136.3 they can continue to analyze those samples under their current certification. Wastewater treatment tank systems that are part of a wastewater treatment facility are regulated under the *Clean Water Act*.

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RCRA

If the non-potable water or chemical or solid material sample is collected from a UST site (fuel and hazardous substances subtitle 1,c) it is a RCRA sample and must be analyzed by SW-846 methodology and RCRA laboratory certification is required (generally monitoring wells and hazardous waste sites).

Underground Storage Tanks (UST's) that contain hazardous substances and/or petroleum are regulated under Subtitle I of the *Resource Conservation and Recovery Act* and require RCRA laboratory certification. UST's containing hazardous wastes are regulated under Subtitle C of RCRA and RCRA laboratory certification is required.

Samples collected for Non-LUST and Bureau of Corrective Action clean up sites generally require SW-846 methodology and RCRA laboratory certification is required.

Underground Injection Control (UIC) projects can fall under SDWA, CWA or RCRA. UIC projects associated with drinking water (surface, ground or source waters) must have the analyses done by a SDWA certified laboratory. UIC projects dealing with known or potential RCRA type materials must have the analytical work done by RCRA certified laboratories. Non-RCRA materials must be analyzed by a RCRA certified laboratory when SW-846 methods are specified. Generally, all other non-potable non-RCRA waters requiring analytical work must be done by a CWA certified laboratory.

SDWA

If the potable water sample is collected for compliance with the *National Primary Drinking Water Regulations and/or the Safe Drinking Water Act* then it must be analyzed by the methods listed in 40CFR141.2 and SDWA laboratory certification is required.

Any questions please contact Environmental Laboratory Services at 775.687.9507.