



west virginia department of environmental protection

Division of Water and Waste Management
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Austin Caperton, Cabinet Secretary
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May 19, 2020

Remote Assessment Policy Due to COVID-19

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) office-based staff continue to work remotely. Additionally, travel restrictions for state employees remain in effect. As a result, the WVDEP Laboratory Quality Assurance Program (LQAP) is continuing to cancel laboratory on-site assessments until further notice. For laboratories who have already paid travel fees for an upcoming assessment, travel fees can either be refunded or applied to the next on-site audit, once recommenced. Please contact us as to your decision, if applicable. Certification and parameter fees are still required to maintain certification.

Additionally, in order to maintain your 2020-2021 WVDEP certification, LQAP staff will begin conducting renewal assessments remotely. Remote assessments will include submission of the requested documentation necessary to ensure compliance to WV § 47 CSR 32, "Environmental Laboratories Certification and Standards of Performance." The use of teleconferencing, visual/audio access to onsite facilities and staff, and submission of recorded audio/visual records may also be required, if deemed necessary to ensure regulatory compliance. Assessments will be conducted using a "best fit" approach tailored to the scope of accreditation and remote capabilities. Your assigned auditor will contact you to begin the remote assessment process. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact your assigned auditor.

Please note that due to travel restrictions, initial certifications and the addition of new parameter(s) to an existing scope of certification may be postponed until an onsite assessment is possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justin D. Carpenter".

Justin Carpenter
Program Manager
Laboratory Quality Assurance