



ARKANSAS

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

October 4, 2022

To Laboratories Submitting Data to DEQ:

The EPA published a Clean Water Act (CWA) Method Update Rule (MUR) for the Analysis of Effluent, 40 C.F.R. Part 136, in the Federal Register on May 19, 2021, and it became effective on July 19, 2021. The MUR modifies the testing procedures approved for analysis and sampling under the CWA. The Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment, Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will implement the 2021 MUR as follows:

- (1) Accredited and in-house (non-contract) laboratories submitting data to the DEQ shall immediately take steps to implement the test procedures specified in the 2021 MUR.
- (2) All in-house laboratories shall update their quality system documents according to the 2021 MUR so as to achieve compliance no later than February 28, 2023.
- (3) Laboratories currently accredited pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 8-2-201 *et seq.* shall update their quality system documents and demonstrate compliance with the 2021 MUR no later than December 31, 2022. Beginning January 1, 2023, all laboratories seeking accreditation shall be in compliance with the 2021 MUR.
- (4) The DEQ will accept data based on the previous MUR (2017) up to, but not beyond, July 31, 2023.
- (5) For accredited laboratories, failure to comply with the 2021 MUR by the respective dates specified above may result in the revocation or suspension of the laboratory's accreditation pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 8-2-208.
- (6) For in-house laboratories, failure to comply with the 2021 MUR by the respective dates specified above may result in an enforcement action.

A copy of the MUR 2021 is available at:

<https://www.epa.gov/cwa-methods/methods-update-rules#mur-2021>

If you have any questions, please contact the Quality Assurance Officer at 501.682.0941 or by email at qaofficer@adeq.state.ar.us.

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