

Committee Request for Board Action: none

46 attendees (via teleconference only) representing 35 member agencies, plus 1 guest speaker

2021 Method Update Rule

Jerry Parr of [Catalyst Information Resources, Inc.](#) provided an update on EPA's [2021 Method Update Rule](#) (MUR), which was published in the federal register in May and has an effective date of July 19, 2021. The following resources provided by Jerry Parr have been uploaded to the committee library:

- A copy of the 2021 Method Update Rule [presentation](#) that was used during the meeting;
- A redline [markup](#) of 40 CFR Part 136; and
- A memo [summary](#) of the 2021 Method Update Rule.

The 2021 MUR is fairly minor compared to previous years, but a few notable changes for wastewater labs include changes to EPA methods for bacteria, solids content, cyanide, nitrogen, dissolved oxygen, BOD, CBOD, and total organic carbon. Metals digestion via microwave is now allowable in addition to hot plate digestion. ASTM and USGS methods were also updated, but these changes are not relevant for most wastewater laboratories.

ELAP plans to include the 2021 MUR, but has not yet provided a timeframe for doing so. Announcements on this issue will be posted to ELAP's "lyris" email list. Agencies may individually request permission to use the new methods by contacting ELAP. The committee will be seeking additional clarification on the timing of incorporation of the 2021 MUR from ELAP staff, as this is an area that could lead to significant confusion.

Troubleshooting BOD Analysis

The committee briefly discussed best practices for improving the reliability of BOD testing using a combination of commercial seed (PolySeed) or in-plant seed sources (influent or primary effluent). Several agencies reporting using a mixture of these sources that changes seasonally.

Chlorine Basin Plan Amendment – Administrative Draft Blanket Permit Amendment

The Regional Water Board has issued an [administrative draft](#) of a blanket permit amendment to implement the chlorine Basin Plan Amendment adopted in Nov. 2020. Once this permit amendment is effective (anticipated fall 2021), all agencies will be able to cease monitoring oil & grease, and many chlorine effluent limits will increase to reflect dilution in the receiving water. Chlorine limits will be based on a one-hour average rather than an instantaneous max. Comments on the administrative draft are due June 15 to Mary Cousins.

Monthly TNI Training ([see flyer](#))

The committee has retained Diane Lawver of Quality Assurance Solutions, LLC to provide a monthly 2-hour TNI 2016 Standard training session for committee members, free for any BACWA members with a valid copy of the 2016 Standard, revision 2.1. The presentations will not be recorded, and agencies will need to register in advance for the series. The first training session will be on Tuesday, July 20th.

DMR-QA Study 41

State Water Board staff member Andrew Hamilton recently distributed an [email](#) with advance notice that DMR-QA Study 41 results must be submitted by December 17, 2021. EPA's DMR-QA Study 41 closing date is August 27, 2021.

Announcements

- Nicole Van Aken will become committee Chair and Samantha Bialorucki will become Vice-Chair beginning in August.
- Palo Alto received confirmation from Santa Clara County that they must register as a medical waste generators. Their permit application is pending with the County.
- The 2021 CWEA annual conference does not contain a laboratory track. The CWEA Lab Committee will hold a committee meeting on Thursday, June 10th during the conference.

Next meeting: August 10, 2021, 10-11:30 AM - Joint meeting with Permits committee to host presentation on results of PFAS Regional Study