

DRINKING WATER LABORATORY SERVICES
TERMS AND CONDITIONS
(Effective July 1, 2023)

LABORATORY ANALYSES

Upon request and for payment of an annual charge, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division (“EPD”) will perform the laboratory analyses and related services required by the Georgia Safe Drinking Water Act of 1977 (“Act”), O.C.G.A. § 12-5-170, *et seq.*, and the Rules for Safe Drinking Water (“Rules”), Chapter 391-3-5, except for analyses for Bromate and Chlorite. An owner of a public water system (“owner”) accepts the Terms and Conditions herein and authorizes the EPD to complete the laboratory analyses and related services requested for a 12-month period from July 1st to June 30th and continuing from year to year as set out below, through the submission of sample containers for the water system to the EPD for analysis. In addition to performing the laboratory analyses, the EPD will provide containers and instructions for sampling as well as assume costs of mailing the sampling containers to the address provided by the owner. If a water system chooses to ship samples to the EPD laboratory for analysis, the owner is responsible for the cost of shipping those samples in containers provided by the EPD.

COMPLIANCE

The owner acknowledges that compliance with the Act and the Rules is the responsibility of the owner of the public water system. Accepting the Terms and Conditions herein is not a prerequisite to, condition of, or substitute for the permit required for the water system. Nor will an owner’s acceptance of these Terms and Conditions prevent the EPD from fulfilling its regulatory duty to enforce the Act and the Rules; such enforcement actions may include, but are not limited to, failure to monitor violation letters, notices of violations, consent orders, administrative orders, and civil penalties as authorized by the Act.

PAYMENT

The owner is responsible for payment of the annual charge(s) related to the requested laboratory analyses and related services and will be billed accordingly with payment due within 30 business days of the invoice date. The EPD’s annual charges for laboratory analyses and related services are available on the EPD’s website at the following location: <https://epd.georgia.gov/forms-permits/watershed-protection-branch-forms-permits/drinking-water-forms>. The annual charges are subject to change each year. The EPD reserves the right to terminate and stop performing or to refuse services due to an owner’s failure to timely pay in whole or in part. Past due accounts will be subject to a penalty charge of 1.5% per month and may be sent to collections. Any discrepancies regarding charges must be brought to the attention of the EPD’s Finance Department at epdfinance@dnr.ga.gov or 678-628-9215. Any changes regarding the water system that may reduce the annual charge invoiced will **not** be taken into consideration until verified by the EPD. Additionally, the owner of a water system as shown in the EPD’s Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS) shall be responsible for payment of any balance due to the EPD until the laboratory analyses and related services for the water system have been terminated as set out below.

CHANGES – REQUEST TO CHANGE WATER SYSTEM INVENTORY OR LABORATORY SERVICES

Changes must be submitted in writing using the EPD’s form “Request to Change Water System Inventory or Laboratory Services” to the appropriate EPD Compliance Office contact listed in the water system’s permit within 15 business days of the change, except for a change in ownership, which must be sent to EPD at least 30 days prior to the proposed change in ownership.

RENEWAL AND TERMINATION

Unless terminated, a water system owner’s request for laboratory analyses and related services will automatically renew each year if his/her payment account is current. The owner may terminate his/her request in writing submitted to the appropriate EPD Compliance Office contact listed in the water system’s permit. The EPD may terminate its laboratory analyses and related services in writing mailed to the water system owner. Upon termination, the water system owner must return all EPD containers within his/her possession.

LABORATORY RESULTS

The EPD will input sampling data and laboratory analysis results into SDWIS. Results for the laboratory analyses performed for each sample will be provided as a mailed hardcopy report or as an emailed digital report. Results are also available electronically at Drinking Water Watch (gadrinkingwater.net/DWWPUB).