



Richard E. Dunn, Director

Watershed Protection Branch

2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
Suite 1152, East Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
404-463-1511

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MEMORANDUM

TO: NPDES Permittees

FROM: Georgia Environmental Protection Division
Watershed Protection Branch
Watershed Compliance Program

SUBJECT: Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permittees may be required to conduct Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) testing as part of an NPDES permit requirement, as part of the application process for reissuance of an existing NPDES permit, in conjunction with an order, or as otherwise required by the Environmental Protection Division (Division). WET tests are typically performed by commercial environmental laboratories.

Georgia's Rules for Commercial Environmental Laboratory Accreditation require commercial laboratories that generate data that will be submitted for regulatory purposes to be approved or accredited by an accrediting agency approved by the Division. In order for the Division to accept WET test results from a commercial environmental laboratory, the accreditation must specifically state that the laboratory is accredited/approved for performing WET testing. Any person submitting WET data prepared by a commercial laboratory to the Division for regulatory purposes must stipulate that the laboratory is approved for WET testing in accordance with the stipulation requirements of the Georgia Rules for Commercial Environmental Laboratory Accreditation (391-3-26).

When selecting a commercial laboratory for WET testing, ensure that it has been specifically accredited to perform WET testing and utilizes the approved procedure specified in your NPDES permit or provided by the Division.