



Division of Environmental Services

Lab services provided to Ohio EPA divisions, state and local agencies.

What we offer

The Division of Environmental Services provides laboratory services to other Ohio EPA divisions, state and local agencies. The division chemists and biologists analyze water, air, sediment and fish tissue samples, inspect and certify laboratories and provide technical assistance. The laboratory performs analyses of drinking, surface and ground water samples, as well as wastewater influent and effluent, sediment, soil, sludge, manure, air filter, air canister, and fish, turtle and plant tissue samples.

Analyses include testing for Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB), inorganic pollutants, such as mercury, cyanide, arsenic, cadmium, lead, oil and grease and ammonia; microbiological constituents, including E.coli; and organic contaminants such as pesticides, herbicides, polychlorinated biphenyls and volatile organic compounds. In addition, the laboratory conducts toxicity studies of wastewater effluents and sediments on aquatic organisms. The samples come from site-specific monitoring conducted by Ohio EPA field staff.

Through these efforts, Ohio EPA identifies sources of known environmental problems and reveals other pollution that might otherwise go undetected. Ohio EPA can then develop permits and management solutions to achieve environmental benefits in a cost-effective manner. Data provided by the laboratory is also used to monitor progress toward achieving compliance with environmental laws and standards and provides information on what pollution control strategies are most effective.

Lab Certification

DES inspects and recommends for certification drinking water laboratories in Ohio to ensure they have proper equipment and facilities as well as trained staff employing proper analytical techniques. The overall goal is to ensure the safety of water obtained from public water systems.

In addition, the division conducts performance audit inspections of laboratories for wastewater discharge (NPDES) permitting purposes and provides training and technical assistance within and outside Ohio EPA.

Fish Tissue Analyzed

The fish tissue analyses conducted by DES are the basis of the state's annual fish consumption advisory. Since this program began in 1994, more than 7,000 sport fish tissue samples have been tested.

Lab Oversight

DES oversees U.S. EPA's Annual Discharge Monitoring Report - Quality Assurance (DMR-QA) program in Ohio. The DMR-QA program evaluates the analytical ability of the laboratories routinely performing self-monitoring analyses required by their NPDES permit. Based on the results of annual DMR-QA testing, as well as requests from the Division of Surface Water, the laboratory conducts performance audit inspections of wastewater testing laboratories used by the regulated community.

Finally, lab employees provide training and technical assistance within and outside Ohio EPA regarding analytical methods and sampling requirements.

Contacts

The lab is located in Reynoldsburg, Ohio. For more information, please call (614) 644-4247 or visit our website at epa.ohio.gov/DivisionsandOffices/EnvironmentalServices.aspx.