January 25, 2011

To: Laboratories Testing Drinking Water under Ontario Regulations 318/08 and 319/08

In January 2004, an interpretative direction was sent to all licensed laboratories outlining their regulatory obligations for uploading data to the Ministry of the Environment’s (MOE) Drinking Water Information System (DWIS) under the Safe Drinking Water Act (2002).

In order to maintain consistency for our regulated stakeholders, we are requesting that licensed laboratories adhere to the same interpretative direction regarding uploading data to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care’s (MOHL-TC) Laboratory Results Management Application (LRMA) under the Health Protection and Promotion Act (1990). The MOHL-TC certainly does not expect laboratories to upload historical data to LRMA when delays with registration occur.

1. Laboratories should forward the name/contact information of any “unregistered” regulated Small Drinking Water System (SDWS) clients to their Local Board of Health. (This information will be assessed by staff and entered into the LRMA as soon as possible).

2. To assure due diligence, laboratories should treat their new client’s drinking water sample submissions as “regulated” (unless samples are taken from a private residential well) and use their approved Chain of Custody form for processing sample submissions. Laboratories should encourage their clients to submit their Laboratory Service Notification (LSN) form to their Local Board of Health.

3. There is no requirement to upload data to the LRMA, if the laboratory’s new client does not appear in their LRMA profile.

4. Once the laboratory’s new client appears in their LRMA profile, data reporting to LRMA takes effect. The 28 day regulatory reporting window begins when the test results are appropriately approved.

Please feel free to contact Jennifer Koene (MOE) at jennifer.koene@ontario.ca or Henry Garcia henry.garcia@ontario.ca at (MOHL-TC) should you have any further questions.

Original signed
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Cammy L. Moodie, Assistant Director   Tony Amalfa, Manager
MOE, Safe Drinking Water Branch   MOHL-TC, Public Health Protection and Prevention Branch