

CLARIFICATION**ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ACCREDITATION**

Prepared by Tom Gries (Ecology) for the PSDDA agencies.

INTRODUCTION

Ecology presented at the DY 1989 annual review meeting (ARM) a summary of:

- the legal authority to establish a laboratory accreditation program (RCW 43.21A.230 (1987));
- the purpose in establishing such a program;
- the state rules which establish such a program;
- the early progress in program implementation; and
- how the accreditation program affects the PSDDA program and dredging projects.

A handout was also provided at the DY 1989 ARM which outlined a phased approach to lab accreditation for those labs performing analyses for PSDDA projects.

PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

The lab accreditation program has made great progress since the DY 1989 ARM. Most commercial labs were accredited for water chemistry analyses. A few were accredited for various bioassay methodologies. Approximately 40 additional labs submitted applications for accreditation and a similar number of others were sent accreditation applications but have yet to return them. All told, it appeared Ecology will eventually accredit several hundred labs.

However, labs were only accredited for water chemistry analyses. While most of the labs performing analyses for PSDDA projects were accredited before the January 1, 1991 interim deadline proposed at the DY 1989 ARM, they did not specify and so were not accredited for PSEP/PSDDA-accepted sediment chemical or bioassay methods.

PROPOSED CLARIFICATION

Ecology therefore will extend the interim deadlines for accreditation as outlined below-

By July 1, 1991, labs must resubmit their applications for accreditation, as already required by rule. Labs should state that their analyses include sediments/dredged material and specify the PSEP/PSDDA protocols for which they desire accreditation.

By January 1, 1992, all labs conducting analyses for the PSDDA program, and submitting results to Ecology via the Corps of Engineers, will be required to be accredited for appropriate PSEP/PSDDA protocols prior to sampling and analysis plan approval. (This requirement will not affect sampling plans approved before January 1, 1992.)