

**BEFORE THE
OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**Public Notice
Proposed Rulemaking Governing
Laboratory Certification Rules**

Notice is hereby given that the Director of Environmental Protection, under the authority of Sections **106.03** and **106.031** of the Ohio Revised Code and in accordance with Chapter 119, proposes to **Original File** the following rules of the Ohio Administrative Code:

3745-81-27, 3745-81-28, 3745-89-01, 3745-89-02, 3745-89-03, 3745-89-04, 3745-89-05, 3745-89-06, 3745-89-07, 3745-89-08, 3745-89-09, 3745-89-10, 3745-89-11 and 3745-89-12.

These rules establish regulations **for acquiring and retaining drinking water laboratory certification.**

The purpose of this rule making is **to include the following changes:**

- **Allowing laboratories to obtain either Ohio EPA laboratory certification, certification by the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP) by accepting NELAP certification, or other acceptable certifying authorities.**
- **Updating the Ohio EPA Laboratory Manual for the Microbiological Analyses of Public Drinking Water and the Ohio EPA Laboratory Manual for the Chemical Analyses of Public Drinking Water, both of which are incorporated by reference in the rules.**
- **Updating recordkeeping and reporting requirements.**
- **Clarifying language.**
- **Correcting minor spelling and grammatical errors and outdated references throughout manuals and rules.**

DDAGW is also proposing to rescind current OAC Rule 3745-81-27, and replace it with a new OAC Rule 3745-81-27 that defers to methods approved by U.S. EPA, as specified in 40 CFR for drinking water analysis, rather than listing each approved method.

A public hearing on this proposed rule making will be held to consider public comments in accordance with Section 119.03 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Ohio EPA will be holding a virtual public hearing on the rules on **September 2, at 10:30 am**. The meeting will be held exclusively online. During the virtual hearing the public can submit written comments that will be read into the record by the hearing host.

The virtual hearing may be accessed through Ohio EPA's website at: <http://epa.ohio.gov/virtual>.

Written comments may be submitted during the virtual public hearing. In addition, written

testimony can be emailed to the attention of **Emma Brown, DDAGW** at the ddagw_rulecomments@epa.ohio.gov. All comments received at the virtual hearing or via email by close of business on **September 2** will be considered by Ohio EPA prior to final action on this rulemaking proposal. Written comments submitted after this date may be considered as time and circumstances permit.

Questions regarding this rule package should be directed to **Emma Brown** of the **Division of Drinking and Ground Waters** at **(614) 728-1219**.

At this time, the proposed rules are only accessible on the **DDAGW** web page at <https://www.epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/rules>.

Please note: Comments for this hearing will only be accepted electronically as Ohio EPA is unable to access physical mail at this time.