

**MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
BUREAU OF REMEDIATION AND WASTE MANAGEMENT  
DIVISION OF TECHNICAL SERVICES  
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Carla Hopkins, Environmental Specialist IV  
CC: David Burns, Acting Bureau Director  
FROM: Kelly Perkins, Chemist 3  
DATE: March 26, 2019  
RE: Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Laboratory Recommendations

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In order to assist the generators in receiving quality data from the various laboratories listed in Attachment 2 in the March 22, 2019 letter from the Department regarding the requirement to analyze for PFAS, I suggest the generators discuss the following items with the selected laboratory prior to contracting with them:

- 1) The samples must be analyzed using an isotope dilution method.
- 2) The isotope recovery must be greater than 10% for all compounds that have a screening standard. If the isotope recovery is less than 10%, the samples must be re-extracted/re-analyzed. I am available to discuss analytical options with the laboratories upon request via telephone at 207-287-7878 or email at [Kelly.Perkins@maine.gov](mailto:Kelly.Perkins@maine.gov).
- 3) Sample results must be reported on a dry weight basis.
- 4) The selected laboratory's reporting limits should be below the screening levels provided in *Beneficial Use of Solid Wastes*, 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 418, Appendix A. If the laboratory is unable to meet these limits, the generator should contact other laboratories on the list. The generator should provide the laboratory with both the Chapter 418 screening levels and an estimate of the percent solids they expect in their sludge. We understand that the laboratory may need to analyze samples with very low percent solids using a method designed for liquid samples as for liquid sludge. If a sample is analyzed as a liquid, the laboratory must also perform a density determination (weigh a known volume of the sludge) and convert the sample results to solid units that can be compared to the Chapter 418 screening levels. The density determination results must be included in the data report. We understand that when analyzing the sample as a liquid, solids present in the sample may clog the extraction cartridge. If solids are removed, the laboratory must make all practical attempts to rinse the solids and the sample container to minimize contaminant losses.
- 5) A field blank should be collected and submitted with each sample set. The field blank should be held by the laboratory and only analyzed upon client request and Department consultation.

Please contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.