

AIR, LAND & WATER

Selecting an Accredited Laboratory

It does not take a genius to select a quality laboratory!

A good number of state rules require the use of state accredited laboratories. Selecting one by price alone is not always the best way.

As they say:

“You get what you pay for!”



Several easy steps will help you avoid pit falls when selecting a laboratory.

- For convenience, you may want to choose a laboratory located close to your facility.
- Ask the Laboratory about their current Accreditation Certificate.
- Check for the expiration date. Certificates are renewed on an annual basis, September 1 to August 31 of each year.
- Be sure to specify if you are looking for a Drinking Water laboratory or a General Water Quality Laboratory (Wastewater, Sludge).
- Check the certificate for the parameters that you wish them to perform.
- Ask if you do not see the specific parameter that you need.
- An accredited laboratory will have the following documents that you may ask to review if you have concerns.
 - A Quality Assurance Plan
 - Results for Proficiency Testing Samples
 - A copy of the most recent DEQ lab inspection
- If results for any sample are outside your expectation, ask for specifics. Have the laboratory send you a quality data packet on the specific result. The DEQ will be glad to help interpret the packet.

Accredited Laboratories are listed on the DEQ GIS Map and Data Viewer:

<http://gis.deq.ok.gov/flexviewer/?config=config-LabAccred.xml>

For more information, contact:

Laboratory Accreditation Unit

Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality

405-702-1000

