



August 18, 2010

Office of Water Quality Water-Quality Information Note 2010.07

Subject: Software--Laboratory Evaluation Program LabTrackr Version 1.0

The purpose of this note is to announce the availability of the Branch of Quality Systems (BQS) software tool, LabTrackr version 1.0.

The Laboratory Evaluation Program (LEP) is designed to assure laboratories are capable of providing data of appropriate quality. The requirement from the [Office of Water Quality Technical Memorandum 2007.01](#) states, "Analytical laboratories that provide chemical, radiochemical, and biological analyses to the Water Resources Discipline (WRD) must be evaluated relative to the objectives of a project requiring analyses and approved for use for that specific project. Performance samples provide the basis for the initial laboratory approval and the approved laboratory must continue to provide performance sample results during the life of the project"

The LEP software tool, LabTrackr, has been developed to provide assistance in the evaluation of a lab. LabTrackr is a web-based application that guides the user through the steps of comparing the selected data quality objectives to the laboratory capabilities, and managing and evaluating proficiency test data generated by the laboratories. A development version of LabTrackr has been available to users for testing and evaluation. LabTrackr 1.0, the first official release of this software tool, is currently available on the BQS website at <http://qadata.cr.usgs.gov/lep>. Generally, the changes to the software for version 1.0 establish a simplified process for the user and fix the most significant problems. The most significant improvement in version 1.0 is the ability to upload proficiency test data directly from an Excel spreadsheet into the LEP database, eliminating the former manual data entry process. All existing data from the development version of the software will be ported to version 1.0, so users who have participated in the testing will not need to re-enter any of their historical information.

Training on the new LabTrackr 1.0 will be available starting in September, 2010. Instructor led webinars will be no more than two hours in length and offered, as needed, from 9:00 - 11:00 am, or 1:00 - 3:00 pm (mountain time) the first Tuesday and second Wednesday of each month. Please visit the website <http://qadata.cr.usgs.gov/lep> for specific dates and times. Reservations are required at least two working days before the training date by email or by calling Brooke Connor (bfconnor@usgs.gov) 303-236-1877. For those who wish to learn at their own pace, the training may also be accessed via PowerPoint on the LEP web site at any time.

For questions or comments, please contact Brooke Connor, (bfconnor@usgs.gov), Project Chief of LEP, or George Ritz (gfritz@usgs.gov), Chief, BQS.

WaQI Notes are archived on the Office of Water Quality Web site, <http://water.usgs.gov/usgs/owq/WaQI/index.html>.

Signed,

The Office of Water Quality
08/18/2010

Distribution: All WRD Employees