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State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Division of Water Quality

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LISA P. JACKSON
Commissioner

JON S. CORZINE
Governor

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

7003 2260 0001 3062 3773

Richard M. Warren, Executive Director
Ocean County Utilities Authority
501 Hickory Lane - PO Box P
Bayville, NJ 08721

JAN 04 2008

Subject: Monitoring Requirements for Mercury using Method 1631E for NJPDES Permit No. NJ0029408

Dear Mr. Warren:

As you may be aware, the Department has implemented a multi-faceted approach to controlling and reducing mercury released in the air, soil and waters of our state. In order to reduce mercury levels into our surface and groundwaters, the Division of Water Quality has adopted a new section in the NJPDES regulations at N.J.A.C. 7:14A-21.12, called the Amalgam Rule. This rule establishes best management practices and regulatory requirements for owners of dental facilities that generate amalgam waste through the removal or placement of amalgam fillings and requires dentists to install amalgam separators. The expected result is a reduction in the amounts of mercury amalgam released into the collection system and ultimately into the waters of the state.

In order to determine the effluent base line levels of mercury discharged from the state's sewage treatment plants the Department, pursuant to the authority contained in N.J.A.C. 7:14A-6.2(a)4.i, 6.2(a)14, and N.J.A.C. 7:9A-1.5(e)7, is requiring that you conduct certain effluent testing for mercury, using EPA method 1631E.

By requiring this testing for mercury both before and after implementation of the Amalgam Rule, The Department will be able to better ascertain the impact of this rule and determine if further actions need be undertaken. Method 1631E is an EPA approved method for detecting the presence of mercury in wastewater effluent. The Method Detection Level (MDL) is 0.02 ng/L for this method. However, for the purposes of this testing, the Recommended Quantification Level (RQL) shall be 1.0 ng/L. This testing is described in detail below:

Testing Protocol:

Three samples must be taken as early as possible, however, at intervals no less than 30 days, from the date of this letter through June 30, 2008. Three additional samples must be taken, at intervals no less than 30 days apart, during the period of February 1, 2010 through July 30, 2010 (6 samples total).

Samples must be taken in accordance with the Department's current Field Sampling Procedures Manual. However, due to a current lack of New Jersey Laboratories certified for Method 1631E, the Department will accept results from out-of-state laboratories, provided they are NJ Certified.

Submission of the lab test result sheets within 30 days apart of the completion of each of the 2 rounds of sampling to Muhammad Shaikh in the Department's Bureau of Point Source Permitting - Region 1 at the address listed above shall be considered compliance with this letter. Please do not enter the results on your monitoring report forms (eg. DMR, WCR, RTR).

For questions pertaining to your NJPDES Discharge to Surface Water Permit, please contact the permit writer listed on your latest permit action or if you believe you have received this letter in error, please contact Muhammad Shaikh as above. For questions pertaining to information related to the Office of Quality Assurance please contact Joseph Aiello at (609) 633-3840.

Please note that failure to comply with this requirement is a violation of N.J.A.C. 7:14A-6.2(a)4.i and 14 and will result in enforcement action.

Sincerely,

Howard B. Tompkins, Chief

Bureau of Point Source Permitting - Region 1

c: Regional Enforcement Office