



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

HAROLD LEGGETT, Ph.D.
SECRETARY

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Contact: Rodney Mallett
Telephone: 225.219.3964

Measuring standards for water discharges made more stringent

BATON ROUGE -- The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has finalized the Minimum Quantification Level changes. Twenty-eight MQLs were changed, while four (arsenic, copper, lead and nickel) remained at the current level. MQLs are federal minimum measuring standards for chemicals, which are used as the benchmark for decision making and compliance for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits.

The revised MQL standards have been reviewed and analyzed for implementation, particularly as they relate to minimizing potential negative impacts upon water bodies in the state. Implementation of these stringent standards will reinforce DEQ's mission of protecting human health and the environment.

The document containing these changes is at
<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=Wfp9dIhS%2fZY%3d&tabid=243>.

There will be a 12-month phase-in period for the new MQLs that began on October 7, 2009. During this period, applicants obtaining new, reissued or modified permits should utilize the new MQL standards. Applicants who have already performed sampling and analysis using the existing MQLs will be allowed to submit data based on those existing MQL standards. Applicants with special requirements or circumstances will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

On October 7, 2010, all applicants obtaining new, reissued or modified permits must adhere to the 28 newly approved MQL standards. MQL data concerning arsenic, copper, lead and nickel will be examined over the coming year.

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