

Soil & Water Conservation Society of Metro Halifax ('SWCSMH')

(a volunteer scientific stakeholder-group)

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Ref.: WAB0014 (total= 1 p.+2p. NSDoE Policy)
To: Chairman Dr. Wayne Stobo and Members,
Halifax/Halifax County Watershed Advisory Board (WAB), HRM
From: S. M. Mandaville (Professional Lake Manage.), Chairman & Exec. Director
Date: June 22, 2000
Subject: **Enlightening new Policy of NSDoE titled "POLICY FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF LABORATORIES"**

As promised at the June Board meeting, I am herewith pleased to enclose the aforementioned new Policy of NSDoE (Nova Scotia Department of the Environment). It was signed into effect by the Deputy Minister on May 09, 2000 and **shall come into effect 2 years after the above date of signing.** In simple terms, what it ensures is Data QA (Quality Assurance) and QC (Quality Control).

- ◆ It orders that all analytical test results submitted to the NSDoE shall originate at laboratory facilities accredited by the SCC (Standards Council of Canada).
- ◆ It also instructs Municipalities and Industry owned Laboratories that each is participating in a recognized proficiency testing program for each parameter submitted to NSDoE. Proficiency testing is carried out by CAEAL, Canadian Association of Environmental Analytical Laboratories which is an association of leading Federal and private laboratories.
 - ◆ In simple terms, the aforementioned applies only to **compliance monitoring**, and does not apply to research. Hence, universities and research institutes will not be affected unless they are supplying data as part of "compliance monitoring".

Note:

1. I am especially pleased about this since our group asked for the implementation of such a policy when we made several comprehensive presentations to NSDoE during 1993-94 and to the Law Amendments Committee chaired by the Hon. Dr. William Gillis during late 1994.
2. If all of you can recall, I also made such pleas to our Board during January and February 2000 when I **reiterated** the need for using only Laboratories which have undergone CAEAL proficiency testing for especially **TP (Total Phosphorus)**, since historical TP analyses has been questionable in some instances, especially for **compliance monitoring**.