



PRESS RELEASE

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MSD Earns National Accreditation for its Environmental Lab

Cincinnati, OH – The Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSD) has earned national accreditation from The NELAC Institute for its environmental laboratory.

The NELAC Institute, a non-profit organization based in Texas, requires compliance with rigorous and uniform laboratory standards covering sample collection, training and experience of lab staff, and data analysis including specific analytical methods to run samples and quality control.

“Accreditation from The NELAC Institute is very difficult to obtain, much like an ISO standard,” said Jeff Swertfeger, Superintendent of the Division of Water Quality Management for MSD. “It was a team effort to achieve this distinction.”

The process involved multiple years of preparation to meet the standards, an extensive application process, and a multi-day inspection by NELAC representatives.

“We chose to apply for accreditation because of frequent reporting to the U.S. and Ohio EPAs related to our Consent Decree, industrial dischargers, and permits for our wastewater treatment plants,” said Swertfeger. “Our lab already used very advanced techniques but this accreditation takes us to the next level and allows us to prove that our environmental data is of the highest quality.”

MSD routinely takes and analyzes samples from local streams and rivers, the wastewater treatment process, and wastewater discharges from local industry into the sewer system. NELAC certification will allow the U.S. and Ohio EPAs to use MSD’s data for consideration of future water quality standards, permit limits and other water-related regulations.

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