



UNEP GEMS/Water Programme
National Water Research Institute
867 Lakeshore Road, P.O. Box 5050
Burlington (Ontario) L7R 4A6
CANADA www.gemswater.org

November 30, 2003

To: GEMS/Water laboratories

Re: United Nations GEMS/Water Performance Evaluation Program

The United Nations GEMS/Water Programme is pleased to announce the launch of its revitalized Interlaboratory Performance Evaluation (PE) Program. As a laboratory that participated in one or more of the previous GEMS/Water intercomparison studies, we wish to invite you to participate in the upcoming GEMS/Water PE Study No.5.

Test samples for this new study will be shipped to interested laboratories in mid December. Each set of test samples will consist of one Quality Control (QC) sample with known concentration levels, and one Performance Evaluation (PE) sample with unknown concentration levels. The QC samples, with their known concentrations, may be used to verify your laboratory's ability to generate good data for the parameters of interest. If necessary, corrections to test procedures may then be made before analyzing the unknown PE samples.

Test samples in the upcoming GEMS/Water PE Study No.5 will include: (a) pH; (b) Minerals; (c) Nutrients; and (d) Demand samples (BOD, COD, and total organic carbon). Analysts will be asked to submit their results for both the QC and PE samples by late February. In March, participants will receive a personalized report on the performance of their laboratory for each analyte for which they submitted data.

The GEMS/Water PE Program is being offered at no charge to laboratories from participating GEMS/Water countries. Participation is strictly voluntary. A series of annual intercomparison studies is planned, with additional types of test samples (e.g. solids, metals, pesticides) being made available in future. The purpose of the GEMS/Water PE Program is to provide your laboratory with valuable QC resources, and feedback on analytical performance. Our goal is to support GEMS/Water laboratories in producing reliable data for their water quality analyses.

We welcome your prompt reply and look forward to your active participation in the UN GEMS/Water Performance Evaluation Program.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Stokker

Yvonne Stokker
Quality Assurance Specialist
GEMS/Water Programme

telephone: 1-905-336-4869
Fax: 1-905-336-4582
Email: yvonne.stokker@ec.gc.ca

