FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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MEMORANDUM

TO: **Program Administrators, Division of Environmental Assessment & Restoration**
FROM: **Drew Bartlett, Director, Division of Environmental Assessment & Restoration**
SUBJECT: **Alternative Method Approvals, Florida LAKEWATCH**
DATE: **July 1, 2013**

The Aquatic Ecology and Quality Assurance Section (AEQAS), at my request, has reviewed method validation information and approved site-specific methods for alternative preservation and maximum holding time for total nitrogen (TN), total phosphorus (TP) and chlorophyll *a* (CHLA) samples, and a limited-use alternative method for the laboratory preparation of chlorophyll samples, collected for Florida LAKEWATCH (LW) projects, as further explained below. Florida LAKEWATCH is a surface water monitoring program coordinated by the Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Department at the University of Florida. This memo provides an approval order for alternative methods as required in Rules 62-160.220(7)(a) and 62-160.330(6)(a), F.A.C. (DEP QA Rule).

Scope of Approval

1. **Freezing Sample Preservation Method** – The freezing method for sample preservation of TN and TP samples, and the preservation procedure for CHLA samples described in the Florida LAKEWATCH Water Chemistry Field Sampling and Laboratory Protocols (LWSOP), are approved as site-specific sampling methods, defined in Rule 62-160.220(4)(a), F.A.C., and as project-specific sampling methods, described in DEP SOP FA 1000, subpart FA 2230, section 1. The methods are approved for use for the LW project for the collection, including preservation and storage, of TN, TP and CHLA samples from fresh and marine surface water matrices on all sites or locations sampled by LW project volunteers and coordinating staff. The methods may also be used by other persons collecting samples for the LW project, if applicable. This includes approval of a maximum holding time of 5 months from the date of sample collection for TN, TP and CHLA samples, as stipulated in the LWSOP.

2. **Chlorophyll Extraction Method** – The extraction method for CHLA sample filters described in the LWSOP is approved as a limited-use method, defined in Rule 62-160.330(4)(a), F.A.C. and in DEP-QA-001/01, section 1.2. The method is exclusively approved for use by the LW laboratory for the analysis of CHLA samples collected from

fresh and marine surface water matrices, and may not be used by another laboratory without separate review and approval by DEP.

Data Usability

Approval of the above Florida LAKEWATCH methods includes the determination that sample analytical data for TN, TP and CHLA using the LW sample preservation methods, sample maximum holding time and chlorophyll filter extraction method described above meet all applicable data quality objectives for the use of approved sampling and analysis procedures for the following:

1. Development and implementation of numeric nutrient criteria for proposed water quality standards in Chapter 62-302, F.A.C.;
2. Impairment assessment of surface waters according to requirements in Chapter 62-303, F.A.C.;
3. Development of Total Maximum Daily Loads; and,
4. Development of Basin Management Action Plans.

For additional information or questions about these approvals, please contact Russ Frydenborg or Michael Blizzard.

DB/mwb

Cc: Russ Frydenborg
Michael Blizzard
Nia Wellendorf
Stacey Cowley