



August 31, 2023

Attention: Petroleum storage and distribution facilities

Re: Sampling protocol to meet the requirements of the Petroleum Storage and Distribution Facilities Storm Water Regulation

On September 1, 2023, minor amendments to the Petroleum Storage and Distribution Facilities Storm Water Regulation (the Regulation) come into effect. As per Section 1 of Schedule 2 of the amended Regulation, this letter details the sampling protocol requirements.

Section 1 of Schedule 2 of the Regulation

Sampling protocol

1 For the purposes of obtaining an effluent sample for the determination of total extractable hydrocarbons, the sampling protocol is as specified by the first of the following that applies:

- a. the director, by specifying the protocol on a publicly accessible website maintained by or on behalf of the director;
- b. the British Columbia Field Sampling Manual, 2013, as published by the ministry of the minister and as amended from time to time.

Protocol Specified by the Director

The following procedures must be followed to meet the requirements of the Regulation:

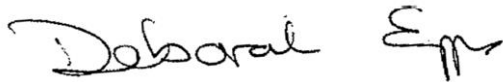
- 1) Effluent samples must be obtained as follows:
 - a. if possible, the sample must be obtained at the point of discharge but cannot be collected from the receiving environment;
 - b. if it is not possible to comply with paragraph (a), the sample must be obtained from the subsurface liquid in the separator as close as is practical to the point where the effluent enters the outlet pipe;
 - c. if there is any other configuration of effluent discharge where (a) and (b) above are not practical, the sampling method must be acceptable to a director.
- 2) Before the sample is obtained, all equipment which comes into contact with the sample must be decontaminated by:
 - a. scrubbing the equipment with a phosphate free laboratory grade detergent, and
 - b. triple rinsing the equipment with de-ionized water.
- 3) All samples of subsurface liquid must be obtained using a sampling device which,
 - a. allows a person to obtain a sample of effluent from below the surface of a separator without contaminating the sample with material at the surface of the separator, and
 - b. is decontaminated as set out in subsection 2.

- 4) Samples cannot be decanted.
- 5) Samples must be handled and prepared in accordance with the Ministry's preservation and hold time requirements.*

*Appendix 4 of Part E of the B.C. Field Sampling Manual (BCFSM) currently lists the container size and type, preservation technique for the individual parameters and hold time requirements. The [sample preservation and hold time table](#) is also published separately from the B.C. Environmental Laboratory Manual and BCFSM.

If you have any questions, please contact Labs@Victorial.gov.bc.ca

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debaral Epps". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Deb Epps
Acting Director of Waste Management
Regional Operations Branch