DEQ	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION POLICY AND PROCEDURE		DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Original Effective Date: April 1, 1994 **Revised Date:** April 26, 1999 **Reformatted Date:** July 11, 2012	**Subject:** Analysis of Metals from Groundwater Monitoring Wells **Division/Office and Program Names:** RMD-Solid Waste and Land Application Section		**Category:** ☒ Internal/Administrative ☐ External/Noninterpretive ☐ External/Interpretive
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A Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Policy and Procedure cannot establish regulatory requirements for parties outside of the DEQ. This document provides direction to DEQ staff regarding the implementation of rules and laws administered by the DEQ. It is merely explanatory; does not affect the rights of, or procedures and practices available to, the public; and does not have the force and effect of law.

INTRODUCTION, PURPOSE, OR ISSUE:
This policy/procedure is to help staff determine the appropriate analysis of metals for groundwater monitoring.

AUTHORITY:

Part 115, Solid Waste Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended.

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT: N/A.

POLICY:

Section 11515(2) of Part 115, Solid Waste Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, (NREPA) states:

> The department shall not license a landfill facility operating without an approved hydrogeologic monitoring program until the department receives a hydrogeologic monitoring program and the results of the program. The department shall use this information in conjunction with other information required by this part or the rules promulgated under this part to determine a course of action regarding licensing of the facility consistent with Section 4005 of subtitle D of the solid waste disposal act, title II of Public Law 89-272, 42 U.S.C. 6945, and with this part and the rules promulgated pursuant to this part.

The provisions of 40 CFR 258.53(b) promulgated under the Solid Waste Disposal Act states in part, "Groundwater samples shall not be field-filtered prior to analysis."

Rule 299.4907(2) states, in part:

> Groundwater samples for metals shall be field-filtered prior to laboratory analysis, unless filtered metals alone will not accurately measure the concentration of metals in the given geologic setting . . .

In approving Michigan's solid waste program, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) states in the March 10, 1994 Federal Register, regarding ban on filtering samples:

The U.S. EPA intends to revisit this issue during a proposed rulemaking. If the U.S. EPA determines the ban should be upheld, Michigan will be required to come into compliance with the provisions of 40 CFR 258.53(b). In the meantime, the state will not be given approval of this requirement.

PROCEDURES:

In order to ensure compliance with the requirements of Section 11515(2) of the NREPA, district Geologists should use the following procedures when reviewing hydrogeological monitoring plans for Type II landfills:

1. Ensure that all wells identified in the plan are sampled and analyzed for filtered metals for that frequency specified by the rules.
2. Ensure that at least one background well and one downgradient well identified in the plan are selected to comply with 40 CFR 258.53(b), which requires groundwater samples shall not be field-filtered prior to laboratory analysis. Selected wells shall comply with 40 CFR 258.51.
3. Ensure that upon the effective date of rules for that unit, unfiltered samples from selected wells are analyzed for metals on the following frequency:
   a. For units where all portions of the unit comply with the leakage control criteria of Rule 299.4422, annually. These units will be deemed to meet the criteria for alternate frequency specified in 40 CFR 258.53(b) for unfiltered metals.
   b. For units where all or portions of the unit do not comply with Rule 299.4422, semi-annually.
4. Approved hydrogeological monitoring plans may provide for elimination of unfiltered samples in the event 40 CFR 258.53(b) is amended to eliminate this requirement, unless unfiltered samples are required pursuant to Rule 299.4907(2) based on the geologic setting.

DIVISION CHIEF APPROVAL:

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Date