



Michigan  
*Office of the Auditor General*  
**REPORT SUMMARY**

*Performance Audit*

Report Number:  
761-0175-07

*Laboratory Data Quality Assurance*

*Department of Environmental Quality*

Released:  
April 2008

*The mission of the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ's) Environmental Laboratory is to provide the best possible service in the most cost-effective manner for the State, to serve as the State's reference laboratory, and to provide consulting services to the private sector and the general public. The laboratory data quality recognition program is a voluntary program to identify private laboratories that are qualified to submit analytical data to DEQ.*

**Background:**

Section 324.20513(2) of the *Michigan Compiled Laws* requires the Auditor General to conduct and submit to the Legislature a report on a performance post audit described in subsection (1) within one year after the effective date of this Section and every two years thereafter.

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**Audit Objective:**

To assess the effectiveness of DEQ's efforts to ensure the accuracy of analytical data generated by its Environmental Laboratory.

**Audit Conclusion:**

We determined that DEQ was effective in its efforts to ensure the accuracy of analytical data generated by its Environmental Laboratory. Our report does not include any reportable conditions related to this audit objective.

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**Audit Objective:**

To assess whether the operating costs of DEQ's Environmental Laboratory were reasonable relative to the operating costs of comparable private laboratories that met the requirements for successful participation in the laboratory data quality recognition program.

**Audit Conclusion:**

As of October 31, 2007, DEQ had not implemented a laboratory data quality recognition program. Therefore, we could not assess whether the operating costs of DEQ's Environmental Laboratory were reasonable relative to the operating costs of comparable private laboratories that met the requirements for successful participation in the laboratory data quality recognition program. Our report does not include any reportable conditions related to this audit objective.

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**Audit Objective:**

To assess the adequacy of the statutory fees for the laboratory data quality recognition program to meet the minimum requirements of the enabling legislation.

**Audit Conclusion:**

As of October 31, 2007, DEQ had not implemented a laboratory data quality recognition program. Therefore, we could not determine whether the statutory fees for the program were adequate to meet the minimum requirements of the enabling legislation. However, we noted one reportable condition (Finding 1).

**Reportable Condition:**

DEQ should seek additional appropriations or an increase in fees to sufficiently fund the laboratory data quality recognition program or seek amended legislation to abolish the program (Finding 1).

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**Supplemental Information:**

Our audit report provides data and comparisons related to the estimated costs and estimated revenues of the laboratory data quality recognition program.

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**Agency Response:**

Our audit report contains 1 finding and 1 corresponding recommendation. DEQ's preliminary response indicates that it agrees with the finding and will comply with the recommendation.

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A copy of the full report can be obtained by calling 517.334.8050 or by visiting our Web site at: <http://audgen.michigan.gov>



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