



Environmental Sampling and Testing Programs

NAVY

...because the right decisions require quality data

Environmental sampling and testing data are used as the basis for virtually all environmental decisions. Decisions based on inaccurate or unreliable data could affect Navy's compliance with regulations; result in unacceptable risks to human health and the environment; or result in the expenditure of unnecessary funds for sampling, testing, or remediation.

Through the Navy Environmental Laboratory Program (CNO N457L), Navy environmental sampling and laboratory testing professionals offer their expertise to activities and the fleet, as these organizations face the challenges of ensuring that environmental data are of the type and quality needed to support decision making.

Key program objectives include:

- Developing sampling and testing policy and guidance
- Providing technical assistance
- Providing early intervention in the regulatory development process
- Serving as a Navy representative and peer at the regulatory negotiation table
- Maintaining core Navy sampling and testing expertise
- Optimizing resource allocation, developing a "smart buyer" approach to outsourcing
- Providing support and oversight for environmental data collection



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Because environmental data serve as the basis for virtually all environmental decisions, they directly affect Navy's compliance with laws, regulations and executive orders. The Navy Environmental Laboratory Program (CNO N457L) provides core expertise and leadership to the Navy on issues related to environmental sampling, testing, and data quality.

Some recent examples of Navy Environmental Laboratory Programs (CNO N457L) assistance, training, and outreach initiatives include:

- Two new hands-on, environmental quality sampling courses sponsored by CNO and Civil Engineer Corps Officers School (CECOS). The courses are Interservice Environmental Education Review Board (ISEERB) approved.
- A new web-based, interactive training program that provides Quality Systems training based on the requirements of OPNAVINST 5090.1B Ch-2, Chapter 25.
- Launching of the Navy Sampling & Testing Website (www.navylabs.navy.mil). This website will be the home of the sampling and testing HELPDESK, which is currently under development, and expected to be released later this fiscal year.
- Evaluating the cost effectiveness of long-term monitoring programs
- Selecting and implementing Performance-Based Measurement Systems (PBMS)

The objectives of the Program are to:

- Enhance operational readiness of Navy activities by providing leadership to Navy activities, and the fleet
- Develop and recommend Navy policy affecting sampling and testing operations to ensure the generation of environmental data of known and documented quality
- Promote wise use of environmental resources
- Conduct outreach and provide technical assistance to the Regional Environmental Coordinators and Major Claimants related to new and emerging intergovernmental initiatives, specifically streamlining and PBMS initiatives
- Serve as a peer of the environmental sampling and testing industry, through the Intergovernmental Data Quality Task Force (IDQTF) and the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference (NELAC) to represent the Navy's interest and ensure that Navy requirements are met when standards and policy are established
- Develop and update Navy training programs to improve core competency and assist Navy activities and the fleet with environmental sampling and field testing issues
- Serve as DoD lead service for environmental sampling and testing data quality by chairing the DoD Environmental Data Quality Workgroup (EDQW)