



PRESS RELEASE

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MSD Lab Earns Ohio EPA's Top Analytical Data Certification

CINCINNATI – MSD's Mill Creek Laboratory has earned Ohio EPA's top analytical data certification for a water quality study of the Mill Creek.

"This achievement, coupled with the lab's National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference (NELAC) accreditation, demonstrates MSD's commitment to environmental excellence," said MSD Director Gerald Checco.

The lab is now approved to submit Level 3 analytical data (e.g., chemical, physical and biological) to the Ohio EPA for MSD's Mill Creek study, which is currently underway. Level 3 data provides the highest level of scientific rigor and its methods are considered equivalent to those used by Ohio EPA personnel. Level 3 data can be used to set Ohio water quality standards and evaluate whether a body of water is meeting the standards.

"The certification confirms the credibility of data from our lab," said MSD's Lab Manager Wanda Harney. "I am very proud of how hard my staff worked to accomplish this goal."

To achieve Level 3 certification from the Ohio EPA, a lab must be accredited and participate in annual proficiency testing. MSD earned accreditation from The NELAC Institute in May 2015, after multiple years of preparation, an extensive application process and a multi-day inspection.

The Mill Creek water quality study, which began in July and will continue through October, is a follow-up to a baseline assessment conducted in 2011. The baseline study showed that Mill Creek is a recovering system with 16 new fish species.

Data from the follow-up study of Mill Creek will be publicized on MSD's water quality website in early 2017 at http://www.msdbg.org/initiatives/water_quality/index.html.

"Our data helps inform the public about water quality in the Mill Creek so they can make informed decisions about recreational activities such as fishing, swimming and canoeing," said

Harney. “Our data also helps MSD use its resources wisely to improve water quality as part of Project Groundwork, our program to reduce sewer overflows into rivers and streams.”

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