



Inaugural LabOratory Highlight: Stickney Analytical Laboratory (SAL)

By Becky Rose, Laboratory Chair

It's a new year and the perfect time to begin highlighting the different member laboratories within IWEA. Here is our first. I know that sometimes people don't want to be the first to brag, but I am rather proud of the lab where I work.

The Stickney Analytical Laboratory (SAL) is just one of the five laboratories of the Analytical Laboratory Division (ALD) of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRDGC). All of the ALD laboratories are NELAP accredited with the IEPA.

SAL personnel include eight chemists, 15 technicians, two lab assistants and one office support person.

We run 21 analyses which include trace metals, solids, nutrients, alkalinity, and chloride. We also provide plant support for hypochlorite and oil analyses. In 2014, we processed 40,654 samples.

In our trace metal section, all the analyses are done on an ICP. The samples analyzed include biosolids and industrial

waste samples. We can run up to 25 different metals. The solids section runs suspended, total by weight/ volume and dissolved solids.

By far the busiest lab in SAL is our nutrients lab. All of the analyses are performed on flow injection analyzers. In 2014, our permit limit for phosphorus was lowered

to 1mg/L. One of the biggest requests for analyses has been for the Enhanced Biological Phosphorus Removal project. Last year, the nutrient section needed to reallocate technicians and purchase new instrumentation just to keep up with all the new demands for phosphorus results.

This is a very condensed summary of SAL. If I were to describe all the work we do it would take up the entire Clarifier. Now that the first highlight is done, please take the opportunity to submit your lab for the next quarter. Contact me at rebecca.rose@mwrdd.org.



Tiffany Poole in the Nutrient lab