Major Equipment Changes
DNR Observations/Actions
SHL Annual Laboratory Symposium
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Ankeny, Iowa
Major Equipment Changes

• Proper Planning is Key – Plan for Down Time
  o MDLs, etc. per previous slides
  o Inter or intra laboratory study with compliance samples

• Plug & Play Society

• Don’t wait until the last minute to upgrade
  o New versions of software, equipment may be more complicated than anticipated
  o Know exactly what you are getting for vendor support & for how long

• Observe setup the entire time
Major Equipment Changes

• Review equipment specified in purchase contract with equipment delivered & installed
  o Same detector, column, sampling apparatus as specified
  o Is it the same as what was in the old equipment?
  o If differences, it is the lab’s responsibility to demonstrate that it meets or exceeds data quality objectives

• IT Support
  o In House
  o Contracted: Important to have one of the staff understand the software enough to communicate effectively with IT contractor and vendor
  o Is your network secure from internal & external threats whether intentional or accidental?
  o Are you backing up your data? How? Where is your “network/cloud”? 
Questionable Data

• Lab discovers errors in calculations, standards, calibration curves, etc.
• SHL discovers method is not being performed correctly during an audit and informs lab that certification is suspended (DNR formal action will follow)
• Unusual results are discovered or brought to the attention of DNR
  o  Source water well usually ~ 9 ppm nitrate
  o  Result <0.1 ppm nitrate
Questionable Data

• Lessons Learned
  o All analytes for method in each matrix will be suspended automatically
  o Laboratory & DNR/SHL actions must be legally defensible
  o Actions must stand up to scrutiny from regulatory agencies, customers, the public, associations and advocacy groups
  o The lab can provide supporting data after the fact to request that some data be re-evaluated.
Outcomes

• Global Analytical Dump
  o Water supply data
  o Allows staff to quickly query data for a specific lab, method, analyte, etc. Note this is not just for enforcement.

• Rulemaking – SFY 2021
  o Contemplating changes in notification procedures for relocating labs & planned purchases of new equipment to 30 days prior with specific requirements detailed in rule
• Questions, Comments & Shared Experiences