To: National Trends Network (NTN) Site Operators and Supervisors  
From: Scott Dossett, NTN Site Liaison and Karen Harlin, CAL Director  
Date: 11/30/2004

**JANUARY 2005 - SITE OPERATIONS PROTOCOL CHANGES**

In October, you received a letter from the NADP Program Office that described the revised NTN protocol in which field chemistry will no longer be supported by the program. The following information will provide details and updates for changes to site operations procedures in 2005. You may have some specific concerns, so please do not hesitate to call Scott at 800-952-7353. As always, your attention and cooperation during this transition is much appreciated.

First of all, a big “Thank You” goes out to all past and present field site operators for their excellent performance with field chemistry measurements since 1978.

**SOME HIGHLIGHTS AND BACKGROUND**

1) This is not something that is happening just to your site. All 261 sites in the NTN will stop reporting field pH and conductance data to CAL beginning with the sample OFF date 1/4/2005 (the first Tuesday in 2005). The last time you should report field chemistry data on your field form is for the sample OFF date 12/28/2004.

2) This is not happening because you (or the NTN) were doing anything wrong. We’ve proven that dedicated operators, with good support, can make accurate field measurements. Your hard work, combined with the assistance of our affiliated agencies and CAL staff over the last 25 years has resulted in good performance on external field chemistry QA tests greater than 90% of the time. That’s exceptional for 300+ people nationwide. The program desperately needs to re-invest in field infrastructure (collectors, raingages, and computers) and network priorities must focus on these efforts.

3) This change does not effect anything else about your weekly “Every Tuesday Morning” routine. You will continue to remove the field bucket and raingage chart, pour your sample into the 1-liter sample bottle, and send the samples to CAL. You can even continue to do pH and conductance analysis if you choose (more about that later).
MAIN POINTS TO REMEMBER

1) Again, thank you for all your hard work throughout the years.

2) Over twenty-five years of field and laboratory measurements have told us a great deal about precipitation chemistry, what happens to weekly samples during shipment, and how sample handling procedures impact sample results.

3) You may choose to continue field pH and conductance analysis. First, discuss this issue with your site supervisor, if you agree to continue field chemistry, read the attached procedure and call Scott with any questions. Remember, there will be no direct CAL support for probes, solutions, trouble-shooting, etc. after 12/31/2004.

4) Please do not send CAL your pH and conductance equipment. It belongs to your sponsoring agency.

5) Please do not return any supplies or solutions to CAL. Use or dispose of them properly at your site.

6) The following pages provide step-by-step changes to the following procedures. You will need to append your *Site Operation Manual* (1999 edition) as described.
   
   A) The new Field Observer Report Form (FORF)
   B) Weekly sampling procedural changes starting January 2005, specifically to discontinue field chemistry measurements
   C) Instructions for aliquot removal from the 1-liter sample bottle should you continue field chemistry (pH and conductance) measurements
   D) New bar code use procedures (the FORF and bottle bag will now have a CAL issued label which you will attach)
   E) A list of NADP National Trends Network field chemistry site supplies

Again, thank you, and please call Scott at 800-952-7353 with any questions.