



July 24, 2012

Dear Active Monitor,

First of all, thank you sincerely for your commitment to water quality protection and restoration through volunteer water monitoring. I am writing to update you on some recent Alabama Water Watch policy changes that will affect the way you go about your regular chemistry monitoring. As you are aware, AWW has historically provided free chemical reagents to monitors who monitor at least 9 times per year. AWW has enjoyed the freedom to provide this assistance to dedicated citizens because of the funds we have received from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management's Nonpoint Source Pollution 319 Program, which was funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Unfortunately due to state and federal funding cuts to this program, AWW will no longer be able to rely on this source of core funding.

Since learning that this funding is no longer an option for the AWW Program, AWW Staff and Association members have ramped up efforts to raise the needed funds to run this valuable statewide program. Government and private sector grants, AWW Association memberships and donations, etc. are being actively pursued. Although we feel very optimistic about AWW's future, we no longer have funds that can be dedicated to the purchase of chemicals for monitors and are therefore forced to discontinue our "Free Chemical Reagent Policy".

We are working with LaMotte, the company who distributes the chemical reagents and hardware, to streamline the ordering process, and soon we will post step by step instructions on how you can order from LaMotte on the AWW website.

This policy change should not discourage you from participating as a citizen water quality monitor. **Every day there are new mounting pressures on water quality, and if there has ever been a time that Alabamians need citizen monitors watching their water it's now!** Funding cuts are making government agencies less able to do adequate water testing around our state, and as a water monitor you can play a valuable role to bridge this gap. As fellow Alabamians we would like to thank you again for caring enough to take an active role in protecting water quality for today and for future generations.

We are fighting to continue to provide the services of the AWW Program such as water monitoring workshops/certification, development of training materials, and maintenance of our database that contains over 70,000 records that have been collected over the past 20 years by citizen monitors like you and is an irreplaceable tool for education, restoration, and policy change.

Alabama Water Watch  
Association  
Post Office Box 3294  
Auburn, AL 36831

Alabama Water Watch  
Program Office  
250 Upchurch Hall  
Auburn University  
Auburn, AL 36849-5415

Phone:  
(888) 844-4785

Fax:  
(334) 844-3666

Email:  
[info@alabamawaterwatch.org](mailto:info@alabamawaterwatch.org)

Web:  
[alabamawaterwatch.org](http://alabamawaterwatch.org)

**We are working to provide increased support to monitors and groups who want to take their “data to action”.** We want to help more citizens use this valuable water data to make positive changes to water quality. We are also working to provide more opportunities for youth in water monitoring and to prepare the next generation of water watchers.

We are always here to provide you with support, especially throughout this transitional time as you learn how to order chemicals directly from LaMotte. On average it costs approximately \$45 a year to maintain an AWW chemistry kit (refilling reagents that have expired or run out). You may find it helpful to find a monitor interested in sharing your kit and the costs of the refills. If you are part of a watershed group, local businesses or organizations who want to contribute to clean water may want to sponsor your group’s monitoring effort.

Don’t hesitate to contact us at (888) - 844-4785 if you have questions. Also, please notify us of any changes to your contact information (phone number and email address) so that we can keep you up-to-date on the new ordering system and other program issues.

Sincerely,



Bill Deutsch  
AWW Program Director



Mike Kensler  
AWW Association President



Mona Dominguez  
AWW Monitor Coordinator