



8/20/2026

MEMORANDUM

From: SC Office of Environmental Laboratory Certification
Re: Operational Oversight Transition

The Office of Environmental Laboratory Certification will undergo an upcoming transition of operational oversight.

After 28 years of dedicated service to the Agency and leadership of the Laboratory Certification Program, Bennie Cockerel will retire effective September 2, 2026. Bennie's leadership has helped maintain a strong foundation for the Program, supported by the knowledge and experience of the current Laboratory Certification Officers. Following his retirement, Mahtab Gowan will serve as the Interim Manager of the SC Laboratory Certification Program until a permanent manager is in place.

Ms. Gowan is a certified Laboratory Certification Officer with 22 years of combined experience with the SC Laboratory Certification Program and the Agency's Laboratory Quality Assurance group. She will provide continuity and oversight of Program operations during the transition.

Please continue to direct program-related questions and correspondence through the established communication channels.

Thank you for your continued support and consideration.

Sincerely,

The Office of Environmental Laboratory Certification

If you have any questions regarding this memo, please feel free to reach out to our Office at 803-896-0970 or by email at LabCertHelp@des.sc.gov.