

Laboratory Feasibility Study



Laboratory Timeline

August 2011: Tropical Storm Irene



1990 – 2011: VAAFM-DEC Laboratory at the Waterbury State Office Complex

2012 – 2017: VAAFM-DEC Laboratory in Temporary Facilities

August 2017: Expiration of UVM Hills Building Lease

Laboratory Missions

- **Protect Human and Animal Health**
- **Safeguard Environmental Resources**
- **Foster Commerce and Economic Development**



Positioning the Laboratory for Emerging Trends

- **New Food Safety Rules**
- **Organic Agriculture Certifications**
- **Genetically Engineered Foods and Seeds**
- **Air Toxics Analysis**



Laboratory Replacement Options

- **OPTION 1** is to **OUTSOURCE** laboratory testing to commercial laboratories and/or to public laboratories in other states
- **OPTION 2** is to replicate the Waterbury model, with VAAFM and DEC laboratories **CO-LOCATED** in the same facility but maintaining separate laboratory operations
- **OPTION 3** is to consolidate VAAFM and DEC operations into a single **COLLABORATIVE** laboratory facility

Option 1: Outsourced Model

- The Outsourced Model is **LESS** cost effective for daily operations
- The Outsourced Model does **NOT** adequately address the need for detection of low level contaminants
- The Outsourced Model does **NOT** adequately address urgent and emergency situations
- The Outsourced Model may **NOT** respond effectively to emerging needs

Option 2: Co-Located Model

- **Will** restore all lab functionality that existed prior to Tropical Storm Irene
- **Will** upgrade lab safety and waste management practices, quality control
- **Will** modernize the current LIMS (Laboratory Information Management System)
- May be **less responsive** to growth and emerging needs than the Collaborative model
- Will be **more costly** to construct and to operate than the Collaborative model
- Will require **3.5 staff positions** above current levels to restore Pre Irene functionality

Option 3: Collaborative Model

- **Will** restore all lab functionality that existed prior to Tropical Storm Irene
- **Will** upgrade lab safety and waste management practices, quality control
- **Will** modernize the current LIMS (Laboratory Information Management System)
- Will be **more responsive** to growth and emerging needs
- Will be **less costly** to construct and to operate than the Co-Located model
- Will **not** require any additional staff positions above current levels to restore Pre Irene functionality

Recommendation

1. Build a new Laboratory Facility that implements the Collaborative Model (OPTION 3)

- *Select a site and begin the design process before the end of 2014*
- *Include all programs that were located in the Waterbury lab*
- *Plan the new lab facility for flexibility and growth*

2. Develop a Collaborative lab governance model

- *Implement a coordinated safety, waste management and quality assurance plan for the collaborative lab*
- *Implement a comprehensive LIMS (Laboratory Information Management System) for the collaborative lab*

3. Continue to explore and develop partnerships within Vermont and with other Northeastern states

