

Organization Description and Qualifications

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The University of Minnesota is one of the largest, most comprehensive, and most prestigious public universities in the United States (http://www1.umn.edu/twincities/01_about.php). The laboratories directed by the project managers contain the majority of the equipment needed to perform the proposed project, including centrifuges, pumps, water meters, analytical balances, and a real-time PCR machine. The University of Minnesota also has “core facilities” that offer additional equipment, which can be used by University researchers “at cost.” For this project, the core facility that is most germane is the University of Minnesota Genomics Center (UMGC; <http://genomics.umn.edu>). UMGc offers state-of-the-art DNA sequencing capabilities, numerous real-time PCR machines, droplet digital PCR machines, and experts available for consultation on an as-needed basis.

Timothy M. LaPara, Ph.D., P.E.

Dr. LaPara has worked at the University of Minnesota since 2000 in the Department of Civil, Environmental, and Geo- Engineering. His research primarily focuses on the microbiology of drinking water and of municipal wastewater treatment. He has authored or co-authored 65 manuscripts published in the peer-reviewed technical literature. According to the Web of Science, his research has been cited more than 2,500 times by other peer-reviewed research publications.

Raymond M. Hozalski, Ph.D., P.E.

Dr. Hozalski has worked at the University of Minnesota since 1997 in the Department of Civil, Environmental, and Geo- Engineering. His research primarily focuses on drinking water treatment and water distribution systems and he regularly works with water utilities around Minnesota. He has authored or co-authored more than 80 manuscripts published in the peer-reviewed technical literature. According to the Web of Science, his research has been cited more than 2,000 times by other peer-reviewed research publications. He is currently a member of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Science Advisory Board Drinking Water Committee.

Past Collaborations

Drs. LaPara and Hozalski have collaborated with each other for almost 20 years, having co-authored a dozen research manuscripts in the peer-reviewed literature. Their collaborations have almost exclusively focused on the microbiology of drinking water. They have substantial prior experience with all of the laboratory procedures proposed in this study, with the partial exception of specifically quantifying SARS-CoV-2 in water. In past work, we have quantified other RNA-viruses (e.g., norovirus), however, so we expect to be able to quickly and easily add the assay for SARS-CoV-2 to our repertoire (assuming that we can obtain the necessary laboratory supplies).