

Minutes

Scheduled Conference Date: Thursday, September 06, 2007
Scheduled Start Time: 12:00 PM Central Daylight Time
Scheduled End Time: 1:25 PM Central Daylight Time
Dial-in Number: 1-218-936-1600 (Midwest)
Participant Access Code: 66198

LastName	FirstName	PRESENT
Autry	Lara	Y
Coats	Kevin	Y
Duncan	Judy	Y
Eaton	Andy	Y
English	Zonetta	Y
Finazzo	Barbara	Y
Jackson	Kenneth	Y
Moore	Marlene	Y
Parr	Jerry	N
Perry	Michael	Y
Pletl	Jim	Y
Shields	Aurora	Y
Ward	Gary	Y
Wichman	Michael	Y
Wyatt	Susan	N
Wyeth	Bob	Y

1. USEPA Science Policy Council - letter addressing laboratory competency. Coordinating efforts with ELAB.

Work Assignment:

Jerry and Marlene will draft the letter, Judy and Barbara will review it. The letter will address the need for ensuring the competency of laboratories and sampling and field measurement organizations in order to ensure the quality of data generated by these entities. This is a logical next step to be taken by EPA after the recognition that EPA laboratories needed to ensure competency by implementation of a quality systems, external assessments, accreditation (when available), inter-laboratory studies or proficiency testing (when available), etc. The letter should include if at all possible the benefits. The letter should also emphasize the need for training the data users so they know what quality components are necessary for obtaining the data they need. According to the “**Guidelines for Ensuring and Maximizing the Quality, Objectivity, Utility, and Integrity of Information Disseminated by the Environmental Protection Agency**”

(http://www.epa.gov/quality/informationguidelines/documents/EPA_InfoQualityGuidelines.pdf) EPA uses data coming from the following sources: 1. internal (EPA has already taking steps to control the quality of this data see the internal policy); 2. Data collected through contracts with EPA (EPA can control this but

accreditation is not one of the components); 3. Data collected through grants and cooperative agreements (EPA can control this but accreditation is not one of the components); 4. Data submitted as part of a required statute, regulation, permit, etc. (Some EPA program offices have some regulatory controls but not very uniform across programs and even less uniform by states implementing some of these programs) ; 5. Data voluntarily submitted to EPA (no control). The subgroup should take these data sources into consideration to see how they best fit into the scheme of this letter.

This advocacy subgroup should contact ELAB to request their support and coordinate efforts.

2. Next outreach effort with AWWA, NACWA, and WEF.

Work Assignment:

[Jerry and Aurora](#) will contact WEF and NACWA to move forward.

Design an agenda that includes the following elements:

- a. Present the concept of quality systems, the requirements of the TNI standard (this will serve as an informational tool to start the discussion).
- b. Start discussing benefits of accreditation and what problems can it solve. Why accreditation is important to a laboratory to a client to a government agency, etc.
- c. Present the main general issues that were addressed by WEF and NACWA (ie. Personnel, PTs, documentation).
- d. How can these issues be addressed to better meet their needs?

3. Next meeting with EPA program offices.

Work Assignment - [Andy, Ken, Michael W., and Lara](#) (Lara can help with contractor support to do the comparisons of the documents).

EPA OW: Pursue the development of a plan with OW to harmonize the drinking water certification manual and the TNI standard.

WW wait until we are farther along with WEF and NACWA.

Work Assignment - [Jerry and Lara](#) will help in contacting and developing a plan to meet with EPA Office of Air. The acid rain, ambient air, risk and stationary monitoring can benefit from a fields activities standard and other TNI activities. Present what TNI has and what we can create in meeting their needs.

Work Assignment - [Kevin, Marlene and Barbara](#) will help develop a plan for our next meeting with the EPA Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (James Woolford) which could also include coordination with DOE, DOD, and EPA Office of Emergency Management (Debbie Dietrich and Dana

Tulis). In addition to TNI activities related to laboratory accreditation, these meeting should include the new standard for sampling and field measurements and some of the implementation issues associated with this effort.

4. Identifying benefits of accreditation. [Zonetta](#) volunteered to help with these activities. Not very much time was dedicated to this topic and more discussion and planning is necessary. Some of the ideas discussed are as follow:
 - a. Case studies (municipal, state, regional, commercial and concentrate on complexity of scope).
 - b. Collect and compare PT data. Compare the before and after data, could concentrate on DMR-QA.
 - c. Case studies of “Bad labs”. There are two types: 1) Mean well but don’t get it (they can be help); 2) Don’t care, don’t want to do it right (can not be helped). Ask the states for case studies. These case studies could help in demonstrating which elements of accreditation are important.
 - d. Permittees need legally defensible data. We can appeal to this group if we can demonstrate that accreditation can result on a higher provability to improve precision and accuracy. These permit holders must sign that data reported in their DMR are true an accurate.
 - e. Link defensibility to the documentation.
 - f. Ask AIHA about their experience and the benefits they see from accreditation. Other organizations A2LA, ILAC, EA.
5. TNI Fields Activities Standard - The Advocacy committee efforts to promote the standard before and after the pilot study is completed. Prepare the message. Ideas from the Boston meeting included:
 - a. Contact DOD and DOE
 - b. Engineering groups
 - c. Industries
 - d. Contact state environmental departments
 - e. News article and press releases (internal and external)
 - f. Contact accreditation bodies (states and/or AIHA, A2LA)
 - g. Presentations at national meetings

Work Assignment - [Kevin, Marlene and Barbara](#) with one invited member from the field activities committee will develop a plan to invite EPA, DOD, DOE, and states to determine implementation and identify the needs for this standard. Advocate for incorporation of quality systems for field activities in QAPPs. NOTE: NJ, FL, LA, and OR already have some requirements for field activities, and LA requires accreditation. Most states have to deal with field activities at some level for some of their programs.

6. TNI Newsletter - Jerry, Barbara. This was not discussed.
7. Adjourn.