

**Field Activities Expert Committee Meeting
August 22, 2008**

Committee members present:

Marlene Moore, Chair

Dave Spies

Jan Wilson

Joann Boyd

Elaine Sorbet

Dane Wren

Jim Eychaner

Mike Miller

Mike Perry

Jane Wilson, Program Administrator

Marlene Moore called the meeting to order. The minutes from the last Field Activities meeting were reviewed. Jan Wilson motioned to approve as written (second by Joann Boyd). All were in favor of the motion.

Review of the FSMO Accreditation Process Draft Policy:

The one item still under discussion is in 2.0 Scope as highlighted in the last version provided by Dave Speis. The proposed change is to allow for the use of other consensus standards for accreditation, but ensure that any other field sampling standards used were standards developed under the same level of rigor those written by TNI. The committee discussed the need for some sort of acceptance for use of other standards that would include TNI approval. For example, while the ASTM standard is said to be compliant with ISO 17025, ASTM's standard is close to self-accreditation. FAC expert committee needs to review and approve the use of alternate standards. Dave offered to raise it to the TNI Board and get a process developed relatively quickly. Other accreditation organizations have this built into their processes. Marlene proposed additional language referencing this approval. Using the term "accepted" rather than "approved".

It was asked if it is necessary for TNI to control what standard is used, since TNI is trying to be as broad as possible – what purpose does the restriction serve? Situation may involve a standard that does not require an equivalent QS (not fully 17025).. Is this an issue for the AB and not TNI? Consistency is a key issue for the environmental community. Dave suggested adding to Marlene's proposal such that three criteria are defined – 1) ISO 17025 based consensus standard, 2) equivalent to TNI FSMO standard, and 3) acceptable to AB.

Marlene has talked to the TNI Board about the need to set up a separate Board for the FSMO and the Stationary Source Audit Sample (SSAS) TNI activities that would be the equivalent to the function of the NELAP Board.

Jim Eychaner moved to add the following language as proposed by Marlene and Dave (Dane Wren seconded):

...“ISO/IEC 17025 based consensus standard for FSMOs that are equivalent to the TNI standard and accepted by the accreditation body.”

All were in favor of proposal as drafted. The language as proposed will become version 5 of the policy and Marlene will redistribute later today. Marlene will send the document to Policy Committee next week if no objections are received by August 25th.

Marlene reviewed other upcoming business – A2LA is possibly interested in accrediting to the FSMO standards, and several other organizations have expressed interest – engineering/consulting type firms. Marlene will schedule another meeting in September, but will schedule after hearing from A2LA. Other ABs are being notified about the opportunity and the Advocacy Committee is continuing other outreach efforts. It was noted that no federal requirements to do the accreditation currently exist and states are determining to whether they have jurisdiction to require FSMO accreditation.