

**Field Activities Committee meeting
September 26, 2008**

Members present:

Marlene Moore, Chair

Dave Speis

Jim Eychaner

Joann Boyd

John Moorman

Jane Wilson, Program Administrator

Carl Kircher, Associate

Glenn Green, Associate

Review and approve August meeting minutes

The minutes were unanimously approved as distributed.

Status and outcome of sub-committee work on FSMO Policy

Marlene reviewed the recent activity on the FSMO policy. The committee revised it one final time after the DC meeting. It has been forwarded for review to the Policy Committee. Marlene will ask Alfredo about status. Mike Perry was also working on another piece of the original document – the accreditation procedure. Marlene proposes a final review of the procedure document just to make it consistent with the policy document and also move it forward. Does the procedure need TNI Policy/Board review and approval? Marlene will find out what the process is. John Moorman was asked to do a review of the two documents for consistency and update the procedure as needed within 30 days.

National Environmental Field Activities Program (NEFAP) - New Name and Status

Marlene explained that since the FSMO program it won't be administered under NELAP, a separate program name has been developed - NEFAP. Creation of the program will round out this sector into a full service program. The intent is to have a Board of accrediting bodies like NELAP, a PT function, etc. Board composition will be a mix of public/private. How does this whole thing get managed within TNI? State of Oregon has verified it can do accreditation, and can also function on a board with third parties. DoD is interested in the structure of the program before signing on, which necessitates the need to define the structure and operating procedures. The goal is to create a national program, but this program will be dealing with different types of accrediting bodies. Many states have no jurisdiction to accredit FSMOs. The Board is expected to be relatively small in size, but members will be expected to approach this activity consistency. The expectation is to have multiple accrediting bodies because of the number of sampling organizations.

Dave suggests it may be premature to talk about building this infrastructure. Other stakeholders are needed to participate in the infrastructure building. The committee needs to focus on selling it first. But it is important to selling the program to be able to talk about the program infrastructure, e.g., the lack of infrastructure may hamper implementation. TNI would lack the oversight to control how the standard is implemented (kind of a chicken/egg situation). Marlene suggested the committee needs a task group to determine the FSMO interested parties to revise the make up of the FAC committee. Jane described the flexibility that is proposed for addition to the TNI standards policies so that additional interest categories can be defined.

Status of Accreditation Body Review

For this program, ABs can be organizations other than states. Marlene will talk to Brian Connor of A2LA regarding their interest. It was asked if there is any funding available to help get a pilot test started. Also, TNI needs to make a public announcement to the right audience to ensure the opportunity for accreditation is communicated to the FSMOs at the same time, once an AB is lined up.

Minutes from 8/12 DC meeting for action items and assignments

Marlene noted she did get a response from OR that they are interested in being an AB – need to have further discussion with Dan Hickman. Also need to follow up with NJ – Dave to contact Joe Aiello. Marlene asked if anyone has a contact from ITRC (consortium of states, regulatory council). Jim will look into whether USGS is active with this group (<http://www.itrcweb.org/>). Also need a committee member to get engaged with ITRC. TRIAD is another area needing engagement (<http://www.triadcentral.org/index.cfm>). Marlene would like to find out when their conference is to get on the agenda. Joann will check into this one.

Air committee report

Carl described what is currently going on with PT Board FoPT subcommittee related to air PT testing. The NEFAP could use the existing PT board for FSMO PT program. The FAC committee has not yet had much discussion on PTs. Marlene asked if it would be helpful to have a PT rep on this committee to help move forward on operational issues. The committee probably also needs to have discussion with the sampling organizations before moving forward.

Other business

None.

Marlene will schedule a follow-up call for October.