

**Summary of the Laboratory Accreditation
Systems Committee Meeting
January 17, 2008**

1. Roll call: Attendance is recorded in Attachment A.

The meeting of the TNI Laboratory Accreditation Systems Committee (LASC) was called to order by June Flowers, Chair, on January 17, 2008 at 1:30 PM PST in Newport Beach, California.

2. Program overview

June Flowers gave an overview presentation of the activities and accomplishments of the LASC since the Cambridge meeting (see ppt. presentation posted)

Brooke Connor reported that the small labs subcommittee tasks will be taken on by the Technical Assistance Committee. She will assist TAC and participate with the mentoring forums. TNI is considering a small labs advocate as a replacement for the small labs subcommittee.

Ann Marie Allen reported that the Non-NELAP AA subcommittee has been re-named as the Associate/Affiliate AB (AAAB) Forum. This forum will look at obstacles to state participation and will work with the Accreditation Body expert committee to recommend categories of recognition for AAABs.

Dan Hickman reported that the National database subcommittee had submitted the database development plan to NFSTC for assistance in building the database. The NFSTC contractor had some questions which they will work on. Estimated cost at this time for building the database is between \$75-100 K. Rachel Gehrett has been elected the new chair of this subcommittee.

June Flowers also advised the committee that election (re-election) of a chair for the LASC will be on a future agenda.

3. SOP on Standards Interpretation

June reported that the NELAP Board had made comments on this SOP and returned it to the LASC. June indicated that she would like to appoint an ad hoc committee to continue work on this SOP. The following members volunteered: Leyla Perez, Dale Piechocki, and June.

3. Policy for Mutual Recognition

This SOP has been completed except for continuing discussion on how to handle language related to federal accreditation bodies. George Detsis, DoE, has requested that language allowing federal agencies not be excluded from the SOP. Comments on this issue included:

- Why would we want to limit the federal role?
- What would be the geographical extent of a federal agency's jurisdiction as a primary accreditation body?
- The federal government doesn't need our permission to be an accreditation body if they want to be.
- We can always write a new policy or amend this one if the issue ever comes up.

After discussion, Dan Hickman moved and Dan Dickinson seconded that 1.4 of the draft SOP referring to federal agencies as accreditation bodies be removed from the SOP. Eleven members voted in favor and 2 voted no. The motion passed.

It was noted that an SOP providing a procedure for handling disputes over primary and secondary accreditations among ABs needs to be written. Also, the word “mutual” should be eliminated from the SOP since this word is not in the NEALC standard. June asked the program administrator to make these revisions and send the SOP out for confirmation.

4. Dispute Resolution SOP Discussion

The AB Expert Committee drafted this SOP and forwarded it over to the LASC. The LASC will recommend addition of a section 5.1 to the SOP to clarify the difference between an appeal and a dispute. Following an overview of the SOP by AB committee chair Jeff flowers, other comments on this SOP included:

- Reference to “20 days” should specify “calendar days”.
- The timeline is confusing and needs to be clearer.
- The appeals panel is appointed by the Nominating Committee. This duty is not mentioned in the bylaws. May need an amendment to the bylaws or have TNI Board make appointments to appeals panel.

June indicated that she would appoint an ad hoc committee to continue working on this SOP. Volunteers included: Lance Boyton, Ann Marie Allen, and Roger Kenton.

5. PT White Paper

June reviewed the PT frequency white paper developed by the LASC in response to a request from the PT Expert Committee. June reported that the LASC members had favored 1 PT by a vote of 13 out of 17 members. Discussion on the PT issue included the following remarks:

- ELAB is also preparing a white paper on PT frequency. They will be requesting data from labs to see if the data support one way or the other. It was reported that EPA might consider going to 2 PTs if the data supports it.
- Can get data from states that run dual programs. Comments on PT frequency need to be considered in next round of standards development. Cannot change it now.
- ELAB input can only go to EPA.
- Are we talking about 1 PT across the board, or just 1 PT in some programs?
- PT sample design has to be consistent when reviewing PT data.
- We need to be careful how statistical analysis is done when considering PT samples. It may not be easy to separate the influence of the quality system on lab performance.

6. The next meeting of the LASC will be February 8, 2008, at 11:00 am EST.

Attachment A

PARTICIPANTS

TNI

LABORATORY ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

Member	Affiliation	Contact Information
Ann Marie Allen - present	Massachusetts, Non-nelap AB	
Jo Ann Boyd - present	Southwest Research Institute, Lab	
Lance Boynton- present	Absolute Standards, Inc., PT	T: 203-281-2917 E: lanceboynton@mac.com
Brooke Connor- present	USGS	T: 303-236-1877 E: bfconnor@usgs.gov
Lewis Denny- absent	Florida DOH, AB	
George Detsis - present	Department of Energy, Government	T: 301-903-1488 E: george.detsis@eh.doe.gov
Dan Dickinson- present	New York DOH, AB	
June Flowers - Chairperson	Flowers Chemical Laboratories, Inc., Lab	T: (407) 339-5984 x212 E: june@flowerslabs.com
Terry Grimes- absent	Pinellas County Utilities, Municipal Lab	
Dan Hickman- present	Oregon DEQ, AB	
Marvelyn Humphrey- absent	USEPA Region 6, EPA	
Roger Kenton- present	Eastman Chemical Company,	
Judy Morgan- present	Environmental Science Corporation, Lab	
Jack McKenzie- present	Kansas DHE, AB	
Leyla Perez- present	Babcock Laboratories, Lab	
Dale Piechocki- absent	Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., Lab	
Ilona Taunton - present	TestAmerica Analytical Testing Corp., Lab,	
Carol Batterton - present	TNI Administrator	T: 830-990-1029 E: carbat@beecreek.net