

Summary of the TNI NELAP Board Meeting October 5, 2009

1. Roll call

The NELAP Board met at 12:30 PM CDT on October 5, 2009. Aaren Alger chaired the meeting. Those members in attendance are listed in Attachment 1. In addition to those indicated, Cathy Westerman from Virginia DCLS also joined the call.

2. Minutes

Minutes from the 9-21-09 meeting were reviewed and approved for posting.

3. Update on renewals and new applications

Lynn Bradley provided the following update on renewals:

IL – the onsite evaluation report is being finalized.

LADEQ – LADEQ is responding with adjustments to their corrective action report.

OR –CAR under review by the evaluation team.

VA – onsite scheduled for Oct. 20-22.

MN – awaiting executive approval to submit application.

OK – application in preparation. Estimated submission date summer 2010.

4. Report on plan for experimental PTs

At the last meeting, several questions came up about the PT Board's plan for phasing out the experimental PT tables. As a result, Aaren invited Eric Smith, chair of the PT Board to join the call to answer questions. The following questions were posed to Eric:

1. What is the plan for eliminating the Experimental PT Tables?

The current plan is to eliminate the tables by the end of the year. Will try to have it done by Dec. 18, so that the NELAP Board can review before the January meeting in Chicago. Then, the new PT tables will go into effect next summer.

2. Do you have enough data to move all, most, any of the experimental FoPTs to the regular tables?

At this time, the plan is to move all PTs to the regular table with a ± 3 s.d. until there is time to review each one separately.

Note: The NELAP Board subsequently changed the implementation date for the new standards, and therefore there will be enough time to evaluate all experimental PTs before posting to the regular FoPT tables.

It looks like there is enough for most to stay on the regular table, but the PT Board subcommittee is still analyzing and gathering data. A high percentage have data, but the question is what constitutes enough?

Some members feel that if there is any doubt, the PT should disappear altogether and not be moved to the regular accreditation table.

3. What criteria will you use to drop or add various experimental FoPTs?

The PT Board will look at the number of data points, how well the analytes perform in the methods, the QC acceptance criteria in the method, and where the original request for the PT came from. The subcommittee will try to determine if there is still a need for the PT.

4. When and how would the PT Board consider adding a new FoPT now that the experimental FoPT tables will be eliminated?

New analytes could be requested in the future and the request would be evaluated by the PT Board subcommittee.

5. What criteria will be used for the new FoPTs that do not have historical data to set limits?

If added, the PT would go on the regular table using ± 3 s.d. until there is sufficient data to establish acceptance criteria.

Aaren requested that the NELAP Board be allowed another two weeks to review the PT Board's request for approval of the plan to eliminate the experimental PT tables, particularly in light of the proposed change in implementation date for the new standards.

Several questioned why the PT board cannot just remove the experimental table from the web and do a deliberate analysis of each analyte before posting on the regular table. Eric said that process was certainly a possibility. One concern about this approach was how to ensure that a lab continues to do an experimental analyte after the table comes down, if the AB wants the lab to do it. The consensus was that the ability to require experimental PTs is already state-specific and would continue to be so under this approach.

Aaren indicated that she would seek input from LASC to see if the labs had any concern taking the experimental PT tables off the web. Brian Boling will attend the LASC meeting.

5. QAO report

Paul Ellingson was in training and unable to participate in the call. Aaren suggested that Paul be requested to attend the Nov. 2 call and discuss the additional table he prepared for the report. Carol will advise Paul. No copies of the report will be distributed to others until after the Nov. 2 call.

6. Vote on implementation date

At the last meeting, Scott Siders moved that the new TNI standards become effective July 1, 2011. George Kulasingam seconded. Since a number of the ABs could not participate in that call, the vote was tabled until this next meeting to give everyone time to consider this motion.

After a short discussion, a roll call vote was taken and all members present voted in favor. Scott Siders, IL EPA, previously provided a vote in favor by email. The motion carried.

7. SW 846

An issue paper on SW 846 accreditation prepared by Pat Conlon was distributed to the Board prior to the meeting for discussion and consideration.

A suggestion was made that the Board consider accreditation by the most stringent method code. There was concern that it was not always clear which versions were more stringent, and which were less stringent.

It was also suggested that the real issue is secondary accreditation and not database management. Aaren suggested that all members continue to think about how to resolve this issue with secondary accreditation and consistency as the primary goal, and the database as secondary.

8. Next meeting

The NELAP Board will meet Monday, Oct. 19, 2009, at 12:30 CDT. Potential agenda items include:

- Approval of minutes
- Update on renewals
- Secondary recognition policy
- Feedback from LASC on Experimental PTs
- SW 846

Attachment 1

STATE	REPRESENTATIVE	PRESENT
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	Alternate: TBA	
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	Alternate: Michelle Probasco mprobasco@kdheks.gov	
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	Altérnate: Cindy Gagnon E: Cindy.Gagnon@la.gov	
LA DHH	Louis Wales T: (225) 342-8491 F: (225) 342-7494 E: lwales@dhh.la.gov	Yes

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	Evaluation Coordinator: Lynn Bradley T: 202-565-2575 E: Bradley.lynn@epa.gov	Yes
	Quality Assurance Officer Paul Ellingson T: 801-201-8166 E: altasnow@gmail.com	No