

Summary of the NELAP Accreditation Council Meeting February 22, 2011

1. Roll call

The NELAP Accreditation Council (AC) met at 1:30 PM EST on February 22, 2011. Those members in attendance are listed in Attachment 1.

2. AB Renewals

Both the in-person and online evaluator training sessions have been completed now; feedback from participants has been positive.

Application packages from KS, NH, and LA DHH are due within a few days, depending on when their letters actually arrived and factoring in the 30 day extensions granted to each one.

No AB members volunteered to work on developing a policy to address the rolling implementation of the new standard, so the Laboratory Accreditation System Executive Committee will be asked to develop this policy for the AC.

3. Request from QAO for AC approval of an alternate QAO for the current round of evaluations

Paul Ellingson had been advised by the TNI Executive Director to seek AC approval for him to possibly use Dan Hickman as an alternate QAO, in the event that Paul couldn't make one or more of the upcoming site visits for the evaluations. There was a different alternate identified on the original contract (now extended), but never used and no longer available.

After discussion with uncertain answers about the contract and the qualifications of the proposed alternate (per wording of the original RFP), Paul was advised to return to the Executive Director and go through a process of amending the contract, to get this accomplished. (NOTE: Jerry advises that the contract states "*The QAO reports directly to the NELAP Board for technical direction and to the TNI Executive Director for administrative matters.*" This may not have been clearly understood previously, as the Program Administrator was unaware of it.)

4. Request for any Changes to Certificates of Recognition of ABs

Certificates for PA and VA will be re-issued to the "Commonwealth of..." instead of the state. Lynn asked if any other ABs needed corrections to their certificates. Florida had already requested the correction it needed, but there was some question about whether the appropriate logo is on the current certificates – the NELAP Recognition logo. It should probably be replaced with the TNI logo on the certificates issued during this round of renewals. Lynn will address this issue with Jerry Parr.

5. Drinking Water Field of Proficiency Testing (FoPT) Table (Eric Smith, Chair of the PT Executive Committee participating)

Eric Smith explained that the DW FoPT table is ready for adoption with a hoped-for July 1, 2011 effective date, and requested quick action on it. The non-potable water and solids FoPT tables will be ready in a few weeks for adoption, with an anticipated October 1, 2011 effective date.

For the DW table, naphthalene has been added new; other analytes were either on the "old" table or have been moved from the experimental table(s). There was discussion about vinyl chloride, which is required once-per-year by EPA regulations, and whether to add/change a footnote about its presence in PT samples, but concerns were raised about regulating-PTs-by-footnote, and it was decided that the PT Executive Committee would just remind PT providers of the 1/year requirement for vinyl chloride, since some apparently do NOT include it now.

Another question arose, about changes to the acceptance limits for some volatiles -- some are tighter, others broader, and why were the unregulated analytes not consistent with the regulated ones. Eric explained that the option of changing regulated compounds didn't exist, but for the unregulated ones, the goal was to establish achievable but not overly broad limits.

The AC Chair requested but did not get a motion to accept the DW FoPT tables. Participants indicated that they want more time to digest the Table, and agreed to revisit and likely vote at the March 7 AC meeting.

Additionally, Eric had proposed language for posting to the TNI website, explaining why the experimental PT tables no longer exist. His proposal was satisfactory, with one minor edit, and this raised the issue of the 2 PT-per-"calendar" year requirement in the new TNI Standard. When the new TNI Standard goes into effect July 1, meeting the 2 PT per "calendar" year requirement would be difficult for labs to meet if new PT tables are made effective in the middle of a calendar year. This issue was referred to be included with the implementation policy, requested from the LAS EC (see above.)

6. Next meeting

The AC agreed to hold its next regular conference call on Monday, March 7, 2011, at 1:30 pm Eastern. The agenda items will include:

Roll Call and Approval of Minutes

Update on Renewals

Determination of whether to vote on DW FoPT table acceptance

Discussion of AB Assistance Task Force recommendations – Judy Duncan participating

Attachment 1

STATE	REPRESENTATIVE	PRESENT
CA	George Kulasingam T: (510) 620-3155 F: (510) 620-3165 E: gkulasin@cdph.ca.gov	no
	Alternate: Jane Jensen E: jjensen@cdph.ca.gov	yes
FL	Stephen Arms T: (904) 791-1502 F: (904) 791-1591 E: steve_arms@doh.state.fl.us	yes
	Alternate: Carl Kircher E: carl_kircher@doh.state.fl.us	no
IL	Scott Siders T: (217) 785-5163 F: (217) 524-6169 E: scott.siders@illinois.gov	no
	Alternate: TBA	
KS	Dennis L. Dobson 785-291-3162 E: ddobson@kdhe.state.ks.us F: (785) 296-1638	Yes
	Alternate: Michelle Wade E: MWade@kdheks.gov	yes
LA DEQ	Paul Bergeron T: 225-219-1244 F: 225-219-8244 E: Paul.Bergeron@la.gov	no
	Alternate: TBD	
LA DHH	Louis Wales T: (225) 342-8491 F: (225) 342-7494 E: lwales@dhh.la.gov	yes
	Alternate: Ginger Hutto E: ghutto@dhh.la.gov	no

MN	Susan Wyatt T: 651.201.5323 F: E: susan.wyatt@state.mn.us	no
	Alternate: Stephanie Drier E: stephanie.drier@state.mn.us	no
NH	Bill Hall T: (603) 271-2998 F: (603) 271-5171 E: george.hall@des.nh.gov	yes
	Alternate: TBD	
NJ	Joe Aiello T: (609) 633-3840 F: (609) 777-1774 E: joseph.aiello@dep.state.nj.us	no
	Alternate : TBD	(Rachel)
NY	Stephanie Ostrowski T: (518) 485-5570 F: (518) 485-5568 E: seo01@health.state.ny.us	yes
	Alternate: Dan Dickinson E: dmd15@health.state.ny.us	no
OR	Irene Ronning T: 503-693-4122 F: 503-693-5602 E: irene.e.ronning@state.or.us	no
	Alternate: Raeann Haynes E: haynes.raeann@deg.state.or.us	no
PA	Aaren Alger T: (717) 346-8212 F: (717) 346-8590 E: aaalger@state.pa.us	yes
	Alternate: Dana Marshall E: dmarshall@state.pa.us	no

TX	Stephen Stubbs T: (512) 239-3343 F: (512) 239-4760 E: sstubbs@tceq.state.tx.us	yes
	Alternate: Steve Gibson E: jgibson@tceq.state.tx.us	yes
UT	David Mendenhall T: (801) 584-8470 F: (801) 584-8501 E: davidmendenhall@utah.gov	yes
	Alternate: Kristin Brown E: kristinbrown@utah.gov	yes
VA	Cathy Westerman T: 804-648-4480 ext.391 E: cathy.westerman@dgs.va.gov	yes
	Alternate: Ed Shaw T: 804-648-4480 ext.152 E: ed.shaw@dgs.va.gov	no
	NELAP AC Program Administrator and Evaluation Coordinator Lynn Bradley T: 703-867-5966 E: LmbTbird@aol.com	yes
EPA Liaison	Arthur Clark T: 617-918-8374 F: 617-918-8274 E: clark.arthur@epa.gov	yes
	Quality Assurance Officer Paul Ellingson T: 801-201-8166 E: altasnow@gmail.com	yes
	Oklahoma David Caldwell Judy Duncan	David Caldwell
	Guests:	Eric Smith