

Summary of the NELAP Accreditation Council Meeting
December 3, 2012

The NELAP Accreditation Council (AC) met at 1:30 pm EDT on Monday, December 3, 2012, for the first of what may become a quarterly series of assessor conversations. Attendance was not taken, except to note that CA, FL, KS, LA DEQ, LA DHH, MN, NH, NY, OR, PA, TX, UT and VA, plus OK, had representatives present, as well as Analytical Excellence and Dade Moeller, Inc., both firms providing assessors on contract to several NELAP ABs. Most states had multiple assessors gathered in one room, which stimulated AB-internal discussions (on mute) and all participants were invited to express their opinions and current practices.

Virginia's Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program had volunteered to lead the discussion, on the topic of Traceability. There were five sub-topics addressed: equipment, support equipment, preparation and digestion, samples and sample containers, and reagents.

The discussion lasted over an hour, and feedback at the end was positive. At the December 17 AC meeting, we will discuss any additional feedback and determine whether to continue the series. Pennsylvania has offered to lead the next session, which would be held on March 4, 2013, if the AC decides to continue the series.