

Summary of the NELAP Accreditation Council Meeting

July 21 2014

1. Roll Call and Approval of Minutes

The NELAP Accreditation Council (AC) met at 1:30 pm EST on Monday, July 21, 2014. The minutes from July 7 were approved. Those members in attendance are listed in Attachment 1. Per the NELAP Voting SOP 3-101, there were enough AB representatives present to approve minutes but not the two-thirds quorum needed to do business about a matter of accreditation.

2. Action Items Pending

- Review and approve Policy Committee-recommended revisions to the NELAP Evaluation SOP 3-102
- Review and vote on the Evaluation Team's recommendation to renew the recognition of LA DHH
- Review and approve the revised NPW FoPT table

3. Discussion of NPW FoPT Table

Maria Friedman, Chair of the PT Executive Committee (PTPEC), joined this meeting to present and discuss the update to the Non-Potable Water (NPW) Field of Proficiency Testing (FoPT) table. There was general agreement that Maria's points would be captured in these minutes so that she need not return for another meeting to repeat her discussion.

The NPW FoPT table has been updated to add low-level halocarbons, as well as some footnote rearrangements, as described below:

- 1) Added new analytes 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane (DBCP,) 1,2-Dibromomethane EDB,) and 1,2,3-Trichloropropane under a new group headed "Low-Level Halocarbons."
- 2) Added a reference to Footnotes 1 and 11 to the new Low-Level Halocarbons group.
- 3) Corrected the footnote reference in the "Low Level Analytes" group from Footnote 12 to Footnote 11.
- 4) Removed references to Footnotes 1 and 2 from the "Analyte" header at the top of each page (Note: Footnotes 1 and 2 are already referenced in the headers for the analyte groups to which they apply, therefore referencing those footnotes in the "Analyte" header on each page is not needed).

The Council discussed members concerns about adding new levels of an already existing analyte to the FoPT table, specifically how do assessors determine which labs are required to analyze those PTs. Labs ought to only be required to perform PTs within their normal working concentrations. One suggestion was that the calibration range should be

the determining factor – any PT at a concentration covered by the calibration range needs to be performed. Maria stated that the PTPEC has not discussed this issue, but that her personal recommendation would be to “choose one.” Some labs report both ranges and perform PTs at both levels, but technically that would make one of the PTs invalid since they are not fifteen days apart.

There was consensus that adding the low-level PTs solves the technical issue but at the same time raises regulatory issues which should be addressed in the standard. However, some guidance about how to use this addition to the FoPT would be better than silence. Several ABs expressed opinions on the issue of whether to accept the revised table with these flaws, or to send it back; one AB is telling its complaining labs to discuss it with their PT providers. Another AB would like to return this FoPT table to the PTPEC with a formal request to cease “band-aiding” the PT tables.

This issue will be addressed at the next Council meeting, or the next time a two-thirds quorum is present.

4. Discussion of LADHH Recommendation

Again, since there was not a two-thirds quorum, this recommendation could not be voted upon. However, several findings from the site report were discussed and AC members will follow up with the Evaluation Team about their concerns. This in no way reflects on LA DHH and absolutely does not endanger its renewal recommendation.

The conversation pointed out several minor revisions that need to be made to the still-draft Evaluation SOP. Scott Siders offered to revise the flow chart, which is in Visio – thank you, Scott!

5. SIRs Needing Discussion -- #171 and #112

SIR 171 concerns Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM) for quantifying asbestos fibers. Many ABs do not accredit for asbestos, and were seeking advice about whether the response provided by the expert committee is adequate. Stephanie Ostrowski agreed to ask the TEM folks in New York, and to post their response to the SIR voting site.

SIR 112 was discussed, and there was a request to reword the answer. However, after the AC meeting, Lynn learned that this SIR will be addressed through the clarification process of the updates SIR SOP, rather than as an actual interpretation, so SIR 112 will be removed from the AC's voting site.

Voting representatives were urged to vote on the newest set of SIRs, posted over a month ago.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the AC will be at conference, on Wednesday afternoon, 1 – 5 pm Eastern, August 6, 2014. The teleconference number for this is 1-213-342-3000, passcode 155258#. (This number and all relevant SOPs have been sent by email.)

The next teleconference meeting of the AC will be on Monday, August 18, 2014. An agenda and teleconference information will be sent out before the meeting. Items to be

addressed are the Evaluation SOP, the NPW FoPT table, and the LA DHH renewal recommendation. Please plan to attend, since we need a quorum to act on these matters of accreditation.

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Attachment 1

STATE	REPRESENTATIVE	PRESENT
FL	Stephen Arms T: (904) 791-1502 F: (904) 791-1591 E: steve.arms@flhealth.gov	Yes
	Alternate: Carl Kircher E: carl.kircher@flhealth.gov	No
IL	Scott Siders T: (217) 785-5163 F: (217) 524-6169 E: scott.siders@illinois.gov	Yes
	Alternate: Janet Cruse T: 217-785-0601 E: Janet.Cruse@illinois.gov	No
KS	N. Myron Gunsalus ngunsalus@kdheks.gov 785-291-3162 Fax: (785) 296-1638	No
	Alternate: none	
LA DEQ	Paul Bergeron T: 225-219-3247 F: 225-325-8244 E: Paul.Bergeron@la.gov	Yes
	Altérnate: TBD	
LA DHH	Donnell Ward T: E: donnell.ward@la.gov	No
	Alternate: TBD	
MN	Lynn Boysen E: lynn.boysen@state.mn.us	No
	Alternate: Susan Wyatt T: 651.201.5323 F: E: susan.wyatt@state.mn.us	No
NH	Bill Hall T: (603) 271-2998 F: (603) 271-5171 E: george.hall@des.nh.gov	No
	Alternate: TBD	

NJ	Joe Aiello T: (609) 633-3840 F: (609) 777-1774 E: joseph.aiello@dep.state.nj.us	Yes
	Alternate : Rachel Ellis E: rachel.ellis@dep.state.nj.us	No
NY	Stephanie Ostrowski T: (518) 485-5570 F: (518) 485-5568 E: seo01@health.state.ny.us	Yes
	Alternate: TBD	
OR	Gary Ward T: 503-693-4122 F: 503-693-5602 E: gary.k.ward@state.or.us	No
	Shannon Swantek T: 503-693-5784 E: Shannon.swantek@state.or.us	No
	Included for information purposes: Scott Hoatson T: (503) 693-5786 E: hoatson.scott@deq.state.or.us	No
PA	Aaren Alger T: (717) 346-8212 F: (717) 346-8590 E: aaalger@pa.gov	yes
	Alternate: Yumi Creason E: ycreason@pa.gov	Yes
TX	Ken Lancaster T: (512) 239-1990 Ken.Lancaster@tceq.texas.gov	Yes
	Ruthie Wedig Ruth.Wedig@tceq.texas.gov	Yes
UT	Kristin Brown T: (801) 965-2540 F: (801) 965-2544 E: kristinbrown@utah.gov	Yes
	Alternate: Jill Jones T: (801) 965-3899 jilljones@utah.gov	No
VA	Cathy Westerman T: 804-648-4480 ext.391 E: cathy.westerman@dgs.virginia.gov	Yes

	Alternate: Ed Shaw T: 804-648-4480 ext.152 E: ed.shaw@dgs.virginia.gov	No
NELAP AC PA and EC	Lynn Bradley T: 540-885-5736 E: lynn.bradley@nelac-institute.org	Yes
EPA Liaison	Marvelyn Humphrey T: (281) 983-2140 E: Humphrey.Marvelyn@epa.gov	no
Oklahoma	David Caldwell David.Caldwell@deq.ok.gov	Yes
Guests:	Maria Friedman, Chair, PT Executive Committee maria.friedman@testamericainc.com	