

Summary of the TNI NELAP Board Meeting October 15, 2007

1. Roll call.

Dan Hickman called the TNI NELAP Board meeting to order on October 15, 2007, at 12:30 PM CDT. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Review and approval of minutes

Minutes from the October 1, 2007, meeting were reviewed. Ken Jackson noted one correction to the minutes stating that he was listed as present for the meeting, while he was actually absent. The minutes were approved as amended and approved for posting.

3. Lynn Bradley's Role as EC

The committee discussed how it came about that the EPA would be providing the EC and whether or not this was part of the original cooperative agreement.

Ms. Bradley summarized the duties that she would be tasked with as the EC as she understood them. The original duties include a completeness review of the checklist and review the draft reports for objectivity and consistency, make a recommendation to the Board of the assessment teams, distribute the application packages, and collect the completed application packages and collect the conflict of interest forms. However, additional duties have been discussed that Ms. Bradley does not wish to perform. These duties include, but are not limited to, coordinate the communications between the evaluation team and the Board and compile the evaluation report. Ms. Bradley feels that the team can speak with the Board on their own and that she can proofread the report, but does not want to be responsible for writing the report.

Mr. Hickman and Mr. Jackson confirmed that she would not be responsible for writing the report, only compiling the various portions from each of the members of the assessment team into one report under the same format. Ms. Bradley stated that the assessment SOP needs to be re-written.

4. Initiation of Next Round of AB Evaluations and Further Revisions to the Evaluation SOP

Mr. Hickman requested that each AB submit the name of the state representative who will be taking part in the AB evaluations.

Marlene Moore of Advanced Systems, Inc. will be providing the training for the AB evaluations on Sunday and Monday before the TNI meeting in Newport Beach, CA.

5. Discussion of PT Concentration Limits

The group discussed how the laboratories will be required to analyze PTs now that the solids matrix included multiple concentration levels for the same analytes. Mr. Miller stated that it was New Jersey's interpretation that the concentration level analyzed will be based on the technology the laboratory analyzes its samples by. Therefore, if the laboratory has accreditation for HPLC, they must analyze the low level PAH PT. The laboratory would also be required to analyze both levels of VOCs if they laboratory was performing testing on samples with low and mid-range concentrations. Mr. Arms stated that nowhere in the NELAC standard does it require PTs based on concentration range, and that we cannot require a laboratory to analyze multi-level PTs in the same study. Ms. Alger stated that currently, Pennsylvania requires laboratories to analyze the concentration appropriate to the samples analyzed. If the laboratory analyzes both ranges in their client samples, then the laboratory may choose which level it analyzes. PA also encourages the laboratories to rotate the level, but does not believe the NELAC Standard allows to a requirement by the AB to mandate both levels be analyzed by the laboratory.

Mr. Arms made the following motion:

“For the fields of proficiency testing listed in the Solids tables that include more than one concentration level for the same analyte, the laboratory should be given the discretion to choose which level it analyzes based upon the concentration ranges of the regular samples analyzed in the laboratory.” Mr. Mendenhall seconded the motion. Mr. Miller stated that he thinks the laboratories should be required to analyze the concentration appropriate to the technology analyzed. Mr. Hickman stated that the NELAC Standard does not specifically list which technologies are appropriate to which levels, and that this is not how the tables read.

The committee voting was as follows:

CA-wait	OR-Yes
FL-Yes	PA-Yes
IL-none	TX-Yes
KS-wait	UT-Yes
NH-Yes	LA-DEQ-wait
NJ-wait	LA-DHH-none
NY-Yes	

Mr. Hickman stated that during the next meeting, the committee will vote on the new FoPT Tables that would be effective January 1, 2008. Mr. Miller stated that the only changes were to add the requirements from the Drinking Water Criteria Document.

6. Policies and SOPs to be Drafted by the Accreditation Body Committee

Ms. Batterton stated that the NELAP Board needs an appeals process. This process could be drafted by the AB Committee and sent through the LASP which would then be approved and sent to the NELAP Board to decide whether it could be used. Ms. Shields stated that she would like to hear how other groups handle these types of things.

Mr. Miller stated that we also need a mutual recognition agreement because it is not included in the current TNI Standard. Mr. Hickman stated that there is a problem with the current wording that it states there is recognized and not recognized, there is nothing that allows for provisional recognition.

7. Other Business

Ms. Batterton stated that Jerry Parr will provide amended language for the cooperative agreement that will allow for EPA to provide assistance to TNI through the EC and regional evaluators. She also stated that there is no word on the status of the database. If the cooperative agreement has to pay for the EC and QA person, there might not be enough money for the database.

The old AAC decisions should be posted on the web. The NELAP Board might need to approve them again in the TNI form. Mr. Hickman said that the NELAP Board might need to just say that we will implement the interpretations of the NELAP Board.

6. Next meeting.

The next meeting will be on November 5, 2007 at 1:30 EDT.

Attachment 1

State	Representative	Present
CA	George Kulasingam T: (510) 620-3155 F: (510) 620-3165 E: gkulasin@dhs.ca.gov Alternate: Jane Jensen, jjensen@dhs.ca.gov	Yes
FL	Stephen Arms T: (904) 791-1502 F: (904) 791-1591 E: steve_arms@doh.state.fl.us Alternate: Carl Kircher, carl_kircher@doh.state.fl.us	Yes
IL	Scott Siders T: (217) 785-5163 F: (217) 524-6169 E: scott.siders@epa.state.il.us	No

	<p>Alternate: Jim Shaw, james.shaw@illinois.gov</p>	
KS	<p>Jack McKenzie T: (785) 296-1639 F: (785) 296-1638 E: jmckenzi@kdhe.state.ks.us</p> <p>Alternate: Aurora Shields, ashields@kdhe.state.ks.us</p>	Yes
LA DEQ	<p>Paúl Bergeron T: 225-219-9800 F: 225-219-9898 E: Paul.Bergeron@la.gov</p> <p>Alternate: Karen Varnado Karen.Varnado@la.gov</p>	No Yes
LA DHH	<p>Louis Wales T: (225) 342-8491 F: (225) 342-7494 E: lwales@dhh.la.gov</p> <p>Alternate: Ginger Hutto, ghutto@dhh.la.gov</p>	No
NH	<p>Bill Hall T: (603) 271-2998 F: (603) 271-5171 E: whall@des.state.nh.us</p> <p>Alternante: Jeanne Chwasciak, jcchwasciak@des.state.nh.us</p>	Yes
NJ	<p>Michael Miller T: (609)292-3950 F: (609) 777-1774 E: michael.w.miller@dep.state.nj.us</p> <p>Alternate: Joe Aiello, joseph.aiello@dep.state.nj.us</p>	Yes
NY	Kenneth Jackson	Yes

	<p>T: (518) 485-5570 F: (518) 485-5568 E: jackson@wadsworth.org</p> <p>Alternate: Dan Dickinson, dmd15@health.state.ny.us</p>	
OR	<p>Dan Hickman T: (503) 229-5983 F: (503) 229-6924 E: hickman.dan@deq.state.or.us</p> <p>Alternate: RaeAnn Haynes, haynes.raeann@deq.state.or.us</p>	Yes
PA	<p>Aaren Alger T: (717) 346-8212 F: (717) 346-8590 E: aaalger@state.pa.us</p> <p>Alternate: Ronald Houck, rhouck@state.pa.us</p>	Yes
TX	<p>Stephen Stubbs T: (512) 239-3343 F: (512) 239-4760 E: sstubbs@tceq.state.tx.us</p> <p>Alternate: Steve Gibson, jgibson@tceq.state.tx.us</p>	Yes
UT	<p>David Mendenhall T: (801) 584-8470 F: (801) 584-8501 E: davidmendenhall@utah.gov</p> <p>Alternate: Paul Ellingson, pellings@utah.gov</p>	Yes
	<p>Program Administrator: Carol Batterton T: 830-990-1029 or 512-924-2102 E: carbat@beecreek.net</p>	Yes
	<p>EC: Lynn Bradley</p>	Yes

