

Summary of the TNI NELAP Board Meeting September 21, 2009

1. Roll call

The NELAP Board met at 12:30 PM CDT on September 21, 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 and Susan Wyatt from MN DoH also joined the call.

2. Minutes

Minutes from the 9-8-09 meeting were reviewed and approved for posting.

3. Update on renewals and new applications

Lynn Bradley was unable to attend but provided the following update on renewals by email:

IL – the onsite evaluation was conducted the week of August 25. The report is in preparation.

LADEQ – the evaluation team has sent their response to the corrective action report. LADEQ is preparing a follow up response.

OR – the response to the onsite report will be sent tomorrow

VA – onsite scheduled for Oct. 20-22.

MN – awaiting executive approval to submit application.

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

Carol Batterton reported that the vote on renewal of the Texas program was complete and the motion to renew had passed.

4. LA DEQ question on insignia

Paul Bergeron requested discussion on the use of the NELAC logo to assist him in preparing LA DEQ's corrective action response. Paul indicated that the evaluation team looking at his program has asked that all lab accreditation certificates have the phrase "NELAP recognized" as part of the insignia on the certificate. **According to what he sees in the standards in 6.2.f, this designation should apply only to general literature used by the AB. In 4.6, the phrase "NELAP-recognized" is not listed as a required part of the**

certificate issued by the AB.

After discussion, it was agreed to solicit Paul Ellingson's input on this issue since other ABs had this same finding. Also, several suggested that Paul respond by agreeing to change his certificates as they come up for renewal. Cindy Gagnon suggested that the terms "NELAP Recognized" be incorporated in the new NELAP logo.

5. Fee letter

Carol Batterton presented a draft letter proposed to be sent to each AB advising of the impending fee assessment for NELAP recognition. Carol asked each AB to let her know where to address the letter in their respective agencies by the end of the week. There were no edits suggested.

6. Implementation memo

Aaren explained the memo from the TNI Board to the NELAP Board had come about because some members of the TNI Board feared that staggered implementation of the new TNI standards would be an issue among the commercial labs. Specifically, it might be perceived that labs in states that implemented the standards early would have a competitive advantage over labs in other states where implementation was later. The TNI Board asked that the NELAP board reconsider and try to set an implementation date that was the same for all labs and ABS.

After discussion, 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 this call, it was decided to table the vote until the next meeting to give everyone time to consider this motion.

7. Experimental PTs

Aaren shared an email that she had received from Eric Smith regarding experimental PTs. The text of the email is pasted below:

Dear Aaren and Dan,

The PT Board voted in December 2008 to do the following:

Discontinue the use of Experimental Analyte Tables. Each new analyte would now be added directly to the accreditation tables and a default study mean +/- 3 standard deviations would be applied to that parameter until sufficient data is generated to determine better analyte specific acceptance criteria.

The NELAP Board was notified at the beginning of this year of that decision. To further clarify, study mean +/- 3 standard deviations would be used in all cases for new analytes, **including analytes added to the drinking water table**, unless 1) a new analyte is listed in the CFR and other specific EPA acceptance criteria is required to be applied or 2) sufficient historical data is available to determine better analyte specific acceptance criteria.

In addition, as the PT Board reviews analytes already on the accreditation tables, we are anticipating coming across instances of insufficient historical data or poor performance for certain accreditation

analytes. In these cases, we plan to either apply the same approach as used for new accreditation analytes (study mean +/- 3 standard deviations) or propose to the NELAP Board that these analytes be dropped from the accreditation table.

As the PT Board begins to move forward with implementing this approach for all FOPT tables, the PT Board and the PT Board's Chemistry subcommittee would just like to inform the NELAP Board of our plans and would like to give you the opportunity to provide us with any comments you may have at this time. We encourage the NELAP Board to provide the PT Board with confirmation that the PT Board's action plan is acceptable, or propose revisions or changes to the plan. As our implementation timeframe is tight, please note that no response provided within the next two weeks (by October 5th) will constitute NELAP Board acceptance.

Sincerely,

Eric Smith
PT Board Chair

After discussion, NELAP Board members indicated that they needed more information. Specific questions included:

What are the criteria for keeping and deleting data?

What will be the process/mechanism for adding PTs in the future?

Is there back up material that was used for formulating this approach?

Aaren indicated that she would invite Eric Smith to join the meeting on October 5 to provide additional information.

8. SW 846

Aaren informed the Board that members of ELAB were trying to schedule a meeting with the NJ environmental program staff to see if there was a way of resolving the issue of consistency of accreditations for SW 846. Joe Aiello indicated that he did not believe that a meeting would be productive as he had recently met with program staff and they had not changed their minds.

Aaren reminded the group that the TNI Board and ELAB expected the NELAP Board to develop an interim solution to this problem so that there could be consistency on how the ABs accredit for this method. Assuming that NJ cannot change the way they do accreditations for SW 846, Aaren asked the Board to develop ideas for other ways to do this accreditation and allow for secondary recognition.

9. Next meeting

The NELAP Board will meet Monday, Oct. 5, 2009, at 12:30 CDT. Potential agenda items include:

Approval of minutes

Update on renewals
QAO report
Secondary recognition policy
SW 846
Experimental PTs
NELAP logos and insignia

Attachment 1

STATE	REPRESENTATIVE	PRESENT
CA	George Kulasingam T: (510) 620-3155 F: (510) 620-3165 E: gkulasin@cdph.ca.gov	Yes
	Alternate: Jane Jensen jjensen@cdph.ca.gov	
FL	Stephen Arms T: (904) 791-1502 F: (904) 791-1591 E: steve_arms@doh.state.fl.us	No
	Alternate: Carl Kircher carl_kircher@doh.state.fl.us	
IL	Scott Siders T: (217) 785-5163 F: (217) 524-6169 E: scott.siders@illinois.gov	Yes
	Alternate: TBA	
KS	Dennis L. Dobson 785-291-3162 ddobson@kdhe.state.ks.us F: (785) 296-1638	No
	Alternate: Michelle Probasco mprobasco@kdheks.gov	
LA DEQ	Paul Bergeron T: 225-219-3247 F: 225-219-3310 E: Paul.Bergeron@la.gov	Yes
	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

	Alternate: Ginger Hutto ghutto@dhh.la.gov	
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 joseph.aiello@dep.state.nj.us	Yes
	Alternate : TBD	
NY	Stephanie Ostrowski T: (518) 485-5570 F: (518) 485-5568	No
	Alternate: Dan Dickinson dmd15@health.state.ny.us	
OR	Brian Boling T: (503) 229-5823 F: (503) 229-6924 E: boling.brian@deq.state.or.us	Yes
	Alternate: Raeann Haynes haynes.raeann@deq.state.or.us	
PA	Aaren Alger T: (717) 346-8212 F: (717) 346-8590 E: aaalger@state.pa.us	Yes
	Alternate: Bethany Piper bpiper@state.pa.us	
TX	Stephen Stubbs T: (512) 239-3343 F: (512) 239-4760 E: sstubbs@tceq.state.tx.us	Yes

	Alternate: Steve Gibson jgibson@tceq.state.tx.us	
UT	David Mendenhall T: (801) 584-8470 F: (801) 584-8501 E: davidmendenhall@utah.gov	Yes
	Alternate: Kristin Brown kristinbrown@utah.gov	
	Program Administrator: Carol Batterton T: 830-990-1029 or 512-924-2102 E: carbat@beecreek.net	Yes
	Evaluation Coordinator: Lynn Bradley T: 202-565-2575 E: Bradley.lynn@epa.gov	No
	Quality Assurance Officer Paul Ellingson T: 801-201-8166 E: altasnow@gmail.com	No