

Summary of the TNI NELAP Board Meeting January 13, 2009

1. Roll call

The NELAP Board met at 1:30 EST on January 13, 2009 in Miami, FL. Those members in attendance are listed in Attachment 1.

2. Agenda

Dan presented the agenda for the meeting:

- Introduction
- Overview of NELAP board mission and accomplishments
- Acceptance of standards
- Report from QAO
- White paper on new AB recognition
- Associate/affiliate recognition
- SW 846 editions
- Update on national laboratory accreditation database
- AB fees

3. New TNI standards

June Flowers, Chair of the LASC, presented the NELAP Board members with the recommendations of the LASC on the new TNI standards. Dan Hickman thanked the LASC for their work and indicated that the NELAP Board would begin reviewing the that the main goal of the NELAP Board review will be to assure consistency with regulatory authority. Dan stated that it is still his goal to have implementation of the new standards by June 2010.

4. QAO report

Paul Ellingson presented his preliminary report on the first round of AB renewals. Paul will serve as QAO on the second round of renewals and the NELAP board indicated they would like to have his assistance on the evaluation of new AB applicants as well.

5. Proposed process change for new AB applications

Ken Jackson presented a white paper proposing changes in timing for the onsite evaluation of a new AB's program. The white paper proposed that the onsite evaluation be delayed until after the new AB had a chance to get their program up and running. The new AB would have interim recognition until after the onsite had been completed. Comments on this proposal included:

- EPA feels like the onsite is beneficial, need to check with the DW program to see how this fits with their procedures. Would be hard to do technical review and then come back a year later for onsite evaluation. Would take time to re-acquaint with the file.
- MN thinks there is a benefit to the onsite. Would like to have some reports reviewed before getting very far along.
- The current process is written for renewals. TNI now has an active mentoring program. We could follow up with new ABs and review early reports.
- We could approach new ABs like a new lab. All they have to do is demonstrate capability.
- VA would benefit from onsite after they had started the process. VA could accept applications and do onsite assessments, but not issue accreditations until after the evaluation team does an onsite.
- Stepping away after the application and coming back later for onsite is not a good idea. The Accreditation body committee envisioned the onsite as a mentoring opportunity.
- Could have some flexibility in the system to allow the applicant to decide when the onsite would be beneficial.
- There should be a level of trust between applicant and evaluation team. Delaying the onsite is not good.
- If the evaluation team waits a year to do onsite, and then discovers a lot of problems, how do we handle?

6. Associate/affiliate recognitions

Joe Aiello presented discussions from the Accreditation Body Committee (ABC) dealing with how to recognize states that for various reasons have accreditation programs, but are not NELAP ABs. Some of the reasons that the states have not pursued NELAP recognition may include political pressure or lack of resources. However, many of these states use the NELAC standards in whole or in part in their programs and many recognize NELAP Accreditation. The ABC would like to find a way to recognize these state programs. Comments on this proposal included:

- Is there any possibility of a category from EPA?
- Supports the 3 tiered approach based on degrees of participation. Also consider ex officio and /or associate members like the expert committees have. Definitely require TNI membership.
- How would we verify that the organization met the qualifications for associate/affiliate status? May require resources. Does NELAP Board have these resources?

7. Election of chair

Jack McKenzie moved that Dan Hickman continue as chair of the NELAP Board. Louis

Wales seconded. All present voted in favor.

8. SW 846 method updates

Dan Hickman reviewed the issue of updates to EPA method SW 846 and the issues the updates have caused with NELAP lab accreditation in several states. Aaren Alger discussed the issue of regulatory programs versus accreditation programs and how in many states these programs operated independently with little opportunity for one to influence the other. The TNI board has asked the NELAP board to develop a solution to the accreditation issues before the summer meeting. Comments received on this issue include:

- The NELAP Board cannot fix the whole problem, but it can fix it for the NELAP accredited labs. The method version needs to be in SOP. Accredite just for the method.
- The NELAP Board should have a conference call with ELAB and the OSWER and permit writers to discuss this issue.
- Accrediting for matrix/technology/analyte removes the problem.
- Drop letter designations for the method and have separate SOPs for the version
- If letter designations dropped, still have to report specific version to client.

9. Next meeting

The next meeting of the NELAP Board will be February 2, 2009.

Attachment 1

STATE	REPRESENTATIVE	PRESENT
CA	George Kulasingam T: (510) 620-3155 F: (510) 620-3165 E: gkulasin@dhs.ca.gov	Yes
	Alternate: Jane Jensen jjensen@dhs.ca.gov	
FL	Stephen Arms T: (904) 791-1502 F: (904) 791-1591 E: steve_arms@doh.state.fl.us	Yes
	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	No
	Alternate: TBA	
KS	Jack McKenzie T: (785) 296-1639 F: (785) 296-1638 E: imckenzi@kdhe.state.ks.us	Yes
	Alternate: Dennis L. Dobson 785-291-3162 ddobson@kdhe.state.ks.us	
LA DEQ	Paul Bergeron T: 225-219-3247 F: 225-219-3310 E: Paul.Bergeron@la.gov	Yes
	Alternate: 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: whall@des.state.nh.us	No
	Alternate: Jeanne Chwasciak	
	jcchwasciak@des.state.nh.us	
NJ	Joe Aiello T: (609) 633-3840 F: (609) 777-1774 joseph.aiello@dep.state.nj.us	No
	Alternate : TBD	
NY	Kenneth Jackson T: (518) 485-5570 F: (518) 485-5568 E: jackson@wadsworth.org	Yes
	Alternate: Dan Dickinson dmd15@health.state.ny.us	
OR	Dan Hickman T: (503) 229-5983 F: (503) 229-6924 E: hickman.dan@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

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

