

Summary of the TNI NELAP Board Meeting January 20, 2010

1. Roll call

The NELAP Board met at 12:30 PM CDT on January 20, 2010. Aaren Alger chaired the meeting. Those members in attendance are listed in Attachment 1. In addition to those indicated, Susan Wyatt and Lynn Boysen from MN joined the call, along with David Caldwell and Judy Duncan of OK. Bernie Wilk also participated on the call to discuss the IL request for extension.

2. Minutes

Minutes from the 1-04-10 meeting were reviewed with changes as suggested. The minutes were approved for posting.

3. Update on renewals and new applications

Lynn Bradley provided the following update on renewals:

MN –The evaluation team still needs to be appointed. Kevin Kubik is following up with the Regional RS&T Directors on the EPA team member. KS and PA are possibilities for state members.

IL – IL has requested another extension to complete their corrective actions. See next item.

4. IL Request for extension

Bernie Wilk, Lead Evaluator, joined the call to discuss the status of the IL request for extension to provide a response to evaluation deficiencies. Bernie noted that the latest request cited the following reasons failure to provide a response to date:

- Physical therapy
- Vacation time
- On-site audit
- Attendance at administrative hearings

Bernie noted that IL has responded at the appropriate time frames but has not provided information about how the deficiencies will be addressed or that noted they have already been addressed.

Dates and actions on the renewal include:

- Findings letter from team dated Oct. 6, 2009
- Initial response due Nov. 6, 2009
- IL (Ron Turpin) requested extension on Nov. 3, 2009
- Extension to Dec. 5, 2009 granted
- On Dec. 8, RT proposed to do corrective actions and provide documentation by Jan. 9, 2010
- Extension to Feb. 26, 2010 requested on Jan. 8, 2010
- The application process for this AB started in Dec. 2008.

Bernie indicated that the evaluation team recommends that this extension be granted, but no additional extensions. If the corrective actions that are provided are not acceptable then the AB should be allowed to try again. Bernie had previously forwarded this recommendation from the Evaluation Team:

We believe that since there have been so many extension requests already that we need to make sure that this audit process concludes soon and with all requirements for corrective actions met. To that end, we recommend that this be the last extension that we grant. Further, we also recommend, that should Illinois not provide corrective actions by Feb 26 or not provide corrective actions that adequately address the audit findings, that they be suspended as a NELAP AB. Suspension, if necessary, should include not being able to provide accreditation to new laboratories or allow the renewal of existing laboratories.

Joe Aiello moved that this extension be granted, but that no further extension be allowed. Paul Bergeron seconded. Steve Stubbs requested that the NELAP Chair communicate the concerns voiced in the discussion to the Illinois representative.

Steve Arms moved that this matter be treated as an accreditation issue and that the voting procedure for accreditation matters (a roll call vote) be invoked. Joe Aiello seconded and all present voted in favor.

Joe Aiello then withdrew the original motion. Joe moved that the extension to February 26, 2010, be granted to IL, as recommended by the Evaluation Team, and that the NELAP Chair communicates to IL the potential consequences of not meeting this deadline. Paul Bergeron seconded. A roll call vote was taken. All present voted in favor. NH, OR and UT will be allowed to vote electronically.

5. Chicago Meeting

Aaren advised the Board that EPA was sending a letter to the TNI Board outlining their concerns about NELAP board procedures. This letter is in response to TNI's request for an MOU with EPA.

The tentative agenda for the NELAP Board meeting in Chicago includes:

Update on NELAP board activities

New AB applicants
Mutual Recognition policy
Dispute resolution policy
Standards interpretations backlog

6. MN evaluation team

Kevin Kubik reported that he had requested volunteers for the MN evaluation team, but had not received any volunteers. His next step is to go to the RS&T director and request a volunteer. If no volunteers are found from this step, then we will need to go to another plan, like a contract evaluator or two state team members. Potential state team members include PA and KS. CA may also be able to help.

7. Other

Steve Stubbs indicated that the NELAP Board need to remind the PT Board that low level analyte codes need to be requested for Hg and TRC.

Cathy Westerman reported that VA cannot issue accreditations before May 1. If a primary accreditation is transferring to VA, then we need to make sure there is no gap in accreditation.

11. Next meeting

The next meeting of the NELAP Board will be in Chicago. The next conference call will be Feb.1, 2010.

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	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	Dennis L. Dobson 785-291-3162 ddobson@kdhe.state.ks.us F: (785) 296-1638	Yes
	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	Yes
	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	No
	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	No
	Alternate: Kristin Brown kristinbrown@utah.gov	
VA	Cathy Westerman T: 804-648-4480 ext.391 cathy.westerman@dgs.va.gov	Yes
	Alternate:	
	Program Administrator: Carol Batterton T: 830-990-1029 or 512-924-2102 E: carbat@beecreek.net	Yes
EPA Liaison	Kevin Kubik T: 732-321-4377 E: kubik.kevin@epa.gov	Yes
	Evaluation Coordinator: Lynn Bradley T: 202-565-2575 E: Bradley.lynn@epa.gov	Yes
	Quality Assurance Officer Paul Ellingson T: 801-201-8166 E: altasnow@gmail.com	Yes
	Minnesota Susan Wyatt Lynn Boysen	Yes
	Oklahoma David Caldwell Judy Duncan	Yes