

Summary of the NELAP Accreditation Council Meeting

January 4, 2016

1. Roll Call and Approval of Minutes

The NELAP Accreditation Council (AC) met at 1:30 pm Eastern time on Monday, January 4, 2016. Minutes from November 16 and December 7 were approved. Those members in attendance are listed in Attachment 1.

From the November 16 meeting, extensions were approved for LA DEQ, OR and VA, with one AB not voting and 13 “yes” votes. The updated NELAP Mutual Recognition Policy 3-100 was also approved with 13 “yes” votes and one AB not voting.

2. Action Items Pending

None at present

3. Update on Asbestos PTs

Donna reported that EPA-internal meetings are underway and that a lunch meeting in Tulsa will probably occur (unknown participation.) She spoke with NY’s PT program, which affirmed that they will not provide PT samples for any lab not conducting work in New York state; a letter to this effect is being drafted and will come from the Wadsworth Center, which encompasses both the AB and the PT program for NY state.

EPA will likely publish its own letter, stating that the PT requirements in the CFR for asbestos will stand as published, despite the unavailability of PT samples outside to labs not accredited by NY. This statement will have the effect of restricting data submissions to EPA concerning asbestos in drinking water to those analyses performed by NY-accredited labs.

Several ABs asked what they should tell their drinking water programs, and strongly urged that EPA make its formal statement about PTs as soon as possible. One AB indicated its preference for continuing accreditations since there is no PT available, and will not be able to enforce against labs for not performing the unavailable PTs unless and until the EPA letter is published. Another AB noted that the regulation being cited for requiring asbestos PTs was promulgated back when EPA itself was providing PT samples to drinking water laboratories.

4. Recommendations for Renewal of Recognition for TX and VA

The Evaluation Team for TX recommended that its certificate of recognition as a NELAP AB be renewed, and materials were distributed to the AB representatives in advance of the meeting. Sara moved and Steve seconded that the recommendation of the team be accepted. Ten of the ABs present voted “yes” with TX abstaining; the remaining three have been asked to vote by email.

The Evaluation Team for VA recommended that its certificate of recognition as a NELAP AB be renewed, and materials were distributed to the AB representatives in advance of

the meeting. Bill moved and Steve seconded that the recommendation of the team be accepted. Ten of the ABs present voted “yes” with VA abstaining; the remaining three have been asked to vote by email.

NOTE: As of January 10, 2016, there are 12 yes votes and one abstention for both VA and TX.

5. New Issue – Colilert Media Problem

Aaren noted that PA’s assessors were finding Colilert media samples that are discolored. The labs have been just discarding these packages, but it appears that something is puncturing the packaging and allowing air/moisture inside. The manufacturer, IDEXX, recommends that samples should be discarded if visual inspection shows discoloration and/or clumping.

PA will write to IDEXX requesting resolution of this problem. Victoria noted that, going back to 2014, NY had asked its labs to initiate complaint, and supposedly the problem was resolved. The concern is that lower level contamination may not be visible.

6. AC Review of the Calibration Standard

Aaren requested that the final version of this document be distributed, and promised to discuss it at conference in Tulsa. The document was emailed to AB representatives on January 5, 2016.

7. Question from the NGAB Working Group

Steve was asked by the NGAB Working Group to check with the AC about whether there are any concerns if the Non-governmental AB recognition activity is organizationally located under the LASEC. He noted that he has separately confirmed with OR that this is acceptable, since it was OR’s position that involvement of the NGABs with the NELAP AC is completely out of the question, or else OR could not continue to participate in NELAP.

This form of oversight will consist of the TNI NGAB Recognition Committee (TNRC) being in a “dotted line” relationship to LASEC going forward, once the Working Group ceases its function (anticipated to be when the NGAB evaluations are complete.) There was some discussion and concern about LASEC and the AC not having been notified of this plan, and also an expressed desire to have a written statement about the LASEC having some oversight for the NGAB activity. There were no explicit vetoes, but one AB stated that it would vote “no” if a vote were taken (which was not planned.)

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at conference in Tulsa. The AC will meet on Wednesday morning, January 27, at 8 am Central time, and then again for the Joint Committee Meeting to discuss the standards revision at 1 pm Central time, that same day. A teleconference line will be available, same number for both calls: 1-800-567-5900, use passcode 155258#.

The next teleconference business meeting of the AC will take place on Monday, March 7, 2016, at 1:30 pm Eastern. An agenda and teleconference information will be sent out before the meeting.

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	Yes
IL	Celeste Crowley T: 217-557-0274 F: 217-524-6169 E: celeste.crowley@illinois.gov	Yes
	Alternate: Janet Cruse T: 217-785-0601 E: Janet.Cruse@illinois.gov	Yes
KS	N. Myron Gunsalus 785-291-3162 E: ngunsalus@kdheks.gov	No
	Alternate: Sara Hoffman shoffman@kdheks.gov	yes
	Included for information purposes: Nick Reams nreams@kdheks.gov	yes
LA DEQ	Paul Bergeron T: 225-219-3185 E: Paul.Bergeron@la.gov	No
	Altérnate: TBD	
LA DHH	Donnell Ward T: E: donnell.ward@la.gov	No
	Alternate: TBD	
MN	Lynn Boysen E: lynn.boysen@state.mn.us	Yes
	Alternate: TBD	
NH	Bill Hall T: (603) 271-2998 F: (603) 271-5171 E: george.hall@des.nh.gov	Yes

	Alternate: Tyler Croteau Tyler.Croteau@des.nh.gov	No
NJ	Michele Potter T: (609) 984-3870 F: (609) 777-1774 E: michele.potter@dep.nj.gov	Yes
	Alternate : Rachel Ellis E: rachel.ellis@dep.nj.gov	No
NY	Mike Ryan T: (518) 473-3424 F: (518) 485-5568 E: michael.ryan@health.ny.gov	No
	Alternate: Victoria Pretti victoria.pretti@health.ny.gov	Yes
	Included for information purposes: Lynn McNaughton lynn.mcnaughton@health.ny.gov	No
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	No
TX	Ken Lancaster T: (512) 239-1990 E: Ken.Lancaster@tceq.texas.gov	Yes
	Julie Eldredge E: Julie.Eldredge@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 E: 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	Donna Ringel T: 732-321-4383 E: Ringel.Donna@epa.gov	Yes
California	Christine Sotelo Christine.Sotelo@waterboards.ca.gov	No
Oklahoma	David Caldwell E: David.Caldwell@deq.ok.gov	Yes
Guests:	none	