

Summary of the NELAP Accreditation Council Meeting

June 4, 2012

1. Roll call and Approval of Minutes

The NELAP Accreditation Council (AC) met at 1:30 pm EDT on June 4, 2012. Minutes of the May 21, 2012, meeting were discussed but a vote postponed until June 18. Those members in attendance are listed in Attachment 1.

2. Action Items Pending

- Response to Complaint from ACIL – letter to Board and/or ACIL
- Resolving information needs about WETT TIA so that it can be approved (meet with relevant committee chairs)
- Follow-up to commitments made in Sarasota – complaint process, consistent FoAs, and item from TNI Board letter of 3/10/10 requesting review of AB Operations
- Draft Response to TNI Board regarding Use of DoD-DOE reports (AB/TF Option #5)
- Request from LAB Expert Cmte to consider surveillance assessments and whether/how to revise V2 to lengthen the mandatory reassessment time beyond 2 years
- SIRs – discussion of “needs discussion” votes, 1-2 each AC meeting
- Follow new Task Force addressing third party AB option
- Policy Committee Review and request for revisions to Voting SOP (3-XXX, Rv 1)

3. Update on ACIL Complaint Letter to TNI Board

Aaren, Steve Stubbs, Lynn and the Lead Evaluator for the AB met with management of the AB that is the subject of this complaint, and had a productive discussion about past, current, and future changes being considered. The ongoing evaluation will proceed normally. Aaren and Steve will prepare a letter to the AB, affirming commitments made during the conversation, and also to the TNI Board, as a status update on the AC's progress.

4. TIA for PT Modules V1, V2 and V3 Concerning WETT

During the May 21 meeting, Steve Stubbs moved and Steve Arms seconded to approve the TIA and make it effective upon the final vote. During the meeting 8 yes votes were cast, with 2 ABs requesting to vote by email along with the 5 absent ABs. One veto vote was cast by MN via email, with the required rationale provided. The rationale was that MN statutes require documentation of the need for and justification of a change to the standard, and the October 17 minutes that reflect the AC's conversation with PT Expert Committee are simply not adequate for that purpose; a formal document is needed. After discussion, the rationale for the veto was deemed persuasive per the AC's voting SOP (unanimous, with MN abstaining), and Aaren will convene a teleconference of the relevant committees and a TNI Board representative, with MN, to address how to meet the information needs, so that adoption of the TIA can proceed in timely fashion.

5. Follow-Up on Item from TNI Bulletin Board about Difference in Technical Director Qualifications between the 2003 NELAC and 2009 TNI Standards

The TNI standard requires 2 years of experience testing environmental samples, for the person identified as Technical Director, although grandfathering of personnel with "experience" is retained, this requirement poses problems particularly for some small wastewater labs, in replacement hires and for labs seeking initial accreditation.

One AB suggested that the Laboratory Director does not necessarily have to be the Technical Director, but rather the TD can be the person who actually performs the testing. This solution will be conveyed to the person who posed the question on the Bulletin Board.

6. EPA Method Update Rule

Cathy Westerman asked to discuss problems in implementing the recent MUR, since test methods for waste water are now specified differently in the MUR than they are in the Drinking Water regulations, having to do with different editions of Standard Methods. Cathy offered to share the letter she is composing to VA's labs to explain the transition.

Aaren noted that PA does not list the method versions on a lab's scope of accreditation; Susan noted that they had made changes equivalent to these for the 2007 MUR, and that now MN's struggle is resolved. MN has created a translation table, and will shortly add the TNI method codes to that table. TNI's database administrator, Dan Hickman, is in process of ensuring that the method codes identify what's approved for wastewater and for drinking water. Susan will share the current translation table with ABs on the AC, and once the method codes are added, will share the update.

7. Next meeting

The next AC meeting will be Monday, June 18, 2012, at 1:30 pm EDT. Teleconference information and an agenda will be sent the week before. The agenda will include:

- Update on the complaint letter
- Actions from Sarasota
- Further Actions as needed to reach a decision on TIA for WET PT
- Other priority issues from #2, as time permits

Attachment 1

STATE	REPRESENTATIVE	PRESENT
CA	Fred Choske 510-620-31745 F: 510-620-3471 E: fred.choske@cdph.ca.gov	yes
	Alternate: Dave Mazzera : 510-449-5600 E: david.mazzera@cdph.ca.gov .	no
FL	Stephen Arms T: (904) 791-1502 F: (904) 791-1591 E: steve_arms@doh.state.fl.us	yes
	Alternate: Carl Kircher E: carl_kircher@doh.state.fl.us	no
IL	Scott Siders T: (217) 785-5163 F: (217) 524-6169 E: scott.siders@illinois.gov	yes
	Alternate: Janet Cruse T: 217-785-0601 E: Janet.Cruse@illinois.gov	no
KS	Michelle Wade E: MWade@kdheks.gov Ph: (785) 296-6198 Fax: (785) 296-1638	yes
	Alternate: N. Myron Gunsalus ngunsalus@kdheks.gov 785-291-3162	no
LA DEQ	Paul Bergeron T: 225-219-3247 F: 225-325-8244 E: Paul.Bergeron@la.gov	yes
	Altérnate: TBD	
LA DHH	Donnell Ward T: E: donnell.ward@la.gov	yes
	Alternate: TBD	
MN	Susan Wyatt T: 651.201.5323 F: E: susan.wyatt@state.mn.us	yes

	Alternate: Stephanie Drier E: stephanie.drier@state.mn.us	yes
NH	Bill Hall T: (603) 271-2998 F: (603) 271-5171 E: george.hall@des.nh.gov	yes
	Alternate: TBD	
NJ	Joe Aiello T: (609) 633-3840 F: (609) 777-1774 E: joseph.aiello@dep.state.nj.us	yes
	Alternate : TBD	
NY	Stephanie Ostrowski T: (518) 485-5570 F: (518) 485-5568 E: seo01@health.state.ny.us	yes
	Alternate: Dan Dickinson E: dmd15@health.state.ny.us	no
OR	Gary Ward T: 503-693-4122 F: 503-693-5602 E: gary.k.ward@state.or.us	yes
	Alternate: 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@state.pa.us	yes
	Alternate: Dwayne Burkholder E: dburkholde@state.pa.us	no
TX	Stephen Stubbs T: (512) 239-3343 F: (512) 239-4760 E: sstubbs@tceq.state.tx.us	yes
	Alternate: Steve Gibson E: jgibson@tceq.state.tx.us	yes
UT	David Mendenhall T: (801) 584-8470 F: (801) 584-8501 E: davidmendenhall@utah.gov	yes
	Alternate: Kristin Brown E: kristinbrown@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 Program Administrator and Evaluation Coordinator Lynn Bradley T: 540-885-5736 E: lynn.bradley@nelac-institute.org	yes
EPA Liaison	Marvelyn Humphrey T: (281) 983-2140 E: Humphrey.Marvelyn@epa.gov	no
	Quality Assurance Officer Paul Ellingson T: 801-201-8166 E: altasnow@gmail.com	yes
	Oklahoma: David Caldwell	yes
	Guests: none	