



# The TNI National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Board

Daniel Hickman, NELAP Board Chair



## Primary

**George Kulasingam**  
**Stephen Arms**  
**Scott Siders**  
**Jack McKenzie**  
**Paul Bergeron**  
**Louis Wales**  
**Bill Hall**  
**Michael Miller**  
**Kenneth Jackson**  
**Daniel Hickman**  
**Aaren Alger**  
**Stephen Stubbs**  
**David Mendenhall**

## Alternate

Jane Jensen  
Carl Kircher  
Jim Shaw  
Aurora Shields  
David Boucher  
Ginger Hutto  
Jeanne Chwasciak  
Joe Aiello  
Dan Dickinson  
RaeAnn Haynes  
Ron Houck  
Steve Gibson  
Paul Ellingson

California DHS  
Florida DoH  
Illinois EPA  
Kansas DHE  
Louisiana DEQ  
Louisiana DHH  
New Hampshire DES  
New Jersey DEP  
New York DoH  
Oregon DEQ  
Pennsylvania DEP  
Texas CEQ  
Utah DoH





## The NELAP Board

- NELAP Board background
- Progress
- Future Plans
- Evaluation Timeline
- Evaluation SOP
- Evaluation Coordinator
- Questions, comments, and assorted other input.



## Background (TNI 101)

**Aaren Alger, PA DEP**





## The NELAC Institute

The NELAP Board is not the same as the TNI Board of Directors.



## NELAP Board

**To ensure that the program is implemented effectively and to address the needs of the stakeholder community, the NELAP Board works in cooperation with other core programs and committees within The NELAC Institute, especially LASC, PT Board, and AB Committee.**





## TNI Programs

- Advocacy
- Policy
- Consensus Standards Development Coordination
- **Laboratory Accreditation System**
- National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation
- **Proficiency Testing**
- Technical Assistance



## TNI Expert Committees

- **Accreditation Body**
- OnSite Assessment
- Quality Systems
- Field Activities
- Proficiency Testing





## TNI Expert Sub-Committees

- Assessor Forum
- Small Laboratories
- National Database
- Non-NELAP States



## TNI Administrative Committees

- Nominating
- TNI Financial Audit
- TNI Policy
- Conference Planning
- Website





## NELAP Board Membership

- One representative and one alternate from each NELAP-recognized Accrediting Body.
- Each representative and alternate is officially appointed by the Accreditation Body to represent their state program.
- A chairperson is selected by the members of the NELAP Board.
- Program administrator to help with administrative functions.



## NELAP Board

The purpose of the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP) is to establish and implement a program for the accreditation of environmental laboratories.

The primary components of this program are:

- The recognition of accreditation bodies,
- The adoption of acceptance limits for proficiency testing developed in the Proficiency Testing (PT) Program, and
- The adoption of the laboratory accreditation system developed in the Laboratory Accreditation System Program (LASP).





## NELAP Board

- The NELAP Board has final authority for implementation of the program for the accreditation of environmental laboratories.
- It assists in development and implements the policies and procedures that govern the operation of this program, and
- It is responsible for ensuring the successful implementation of the program.



## NELAP Board

Other duties include:

- Receiving questions or complaints about implementation and directing them to the proper body for action.
- Ensuring the consistency of application of the current standards by NELAP ABs.





## NELAP Board

- The authority to administer an accreditation program comes from state statute and regulation, and is the same under TNI as it was under NELAC.
- The Board operates under the model of self governance.



## NELAP Board Update

Dan Hickman, OR DEQ







## NELAP Board Progress

- Assembled representatives from each AB.
- Selected chairperson
- Drafted and finalized Board charter.
- Drafted and implemented the Voting SOP to include provision for AB veto when regulation prohibits implementation.
- Updated “Accrediting Authority” to “Accreditation Body” nomenclature to align better with ISO language.



## NELAP Board Progress

- Drafted and implemented the organizational and meetings SOP and guidelines.
- Voted to grant TNI NELAP recognition to ABs based on NELAC evaluation.
- Agreed to follow essentially the same evaluation/recognition SOP and process as used under NELAC because of time constraints.





## NELAP Board Progress

- Worked with the Advocacy Committee to ensure EPA regional involvement in the evaluation process.
- Agreed as a pro tem solution to adopt existing NELAC policies and SOPs for accreditation and recognition, with minor changes, for the current round to allow the Laboratory Accreditation System to develop and recommend a new system.



## NELAP Board Activities

- Completed the review and update of the draft SOP covering evaluation and recognition of ABs.
- Drafted job description for the Evaluation Coordinator.
- Designed and approved the TNI NELAP recognition Certificate.
- Collected TNI AB recognized Fields of Accreditation (Matrix-Technology).
- Updating NELAC Handbook and NELAC policies (removed from 2003 standards) to fit the TNI organization.





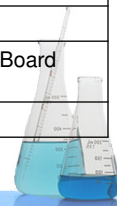
## NELAP Board Activities

- Assembled updated policies, SOPs, and operational guidelines into a single document for easy reference.
  - Use the complete NELAC 2003 standard as a basis for the implementation guidance for use under TNI.
  - Updated language and procedures in evaluation SOP authored the EPA Regional Evaluation Workgroup to incorporate this guidance.



## AB Evaluation Timeline

August 2007	Complete draft Evaluation SOP. Meet with Regional Evaluators in Cambridge to discuss, update and distribute.
September 2007	Identify Evaluation Coordinator
October 2007	Send out letters to Accreditation Bodies (ABs) to submit renewal applications. Identify team members.
November 2007	ABs submit renewal application packages
December 2007	Begin application completeness reviews.
January 2008	Training at winter meeting for evaluation teams. Teams begin technical reviews.
January 2008	Begin scheduling on-site evaluations
February 2008	Begin conducting on-site evaluations as teams and ABs are ready.
March 2008	Begin sending findings of on-site evaluations to ABs.
April 2008	Begin receiving CARs.
May 2008	Begin sending recognition recommendations to the NELAP Board (LE).
July 2008	Complete renewal of AB recognitions.





## NELAP Board Future Plans

- Identify person to act as the Evaluation Coordinator for all evaluations.
- Identify EPA Evaluators to be used for onsite.
- Identify NELAP Board members to participate in AB evaluations.
- Draft conflict resolution SOP and setup a group similar to NELAC AARB.
- Begin the recognition process by sending out letters of invitation for recognition renewal.



Certificate No. \_\_\_\_\_

**CERTIFICATE OF  
NELAP RECOGNITION**

*The National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program  
recognizes the:*

  
*as being compliant with the accreditation body requirements of  
the NELAC Standard, and is hereby recognized  
to accredit environmental laboratories in accordance with these standards.*

Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Valid through: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*TNI NELAP Board Chair*

Fields of Accreditation are delineated  
in the attached table



## AB Recognized Fields of Accreditation

Name	Technology Description	DW	NPW	S & C	Air	Tissue
AMP	Amperometric Titration	X	X			
AS	Alpha Spectrometry	X	X			
ASC	Alpha Scintillation Cell Counter	X	X			
ASV	Anodic Stripping Voltammetry		X	X	X	
AUTO	Auto Analyzer	X	X	X		X
BETA	Beta Spectrometry	X	X			
BGCS	Beta/Gamma Coincidence Scintillation Counter	X	X			
COND	Conductance	X	X	X		
COUL	Coulometric Titration		X			
CVAAS	Atomic Absorption-Cold Vapor Spectrometry	X	X	X	X	X
CVAFS	Atomic Fluorescence - Cold Vapor Spectrometry	X	X	X	X	X
DCP-AES	Atomic Emission - Direct Current Plasma Spectrometry		X			
DPP	Differential Pulse Polarography		X			
FAAS	Atomic Absorption - Flame Spectrometry	X	X	X	X	X
FAES	Atomic Emission - Flame Spectrometry	X	X	X	X	X
FLUOR	Ultraviolet or Visible Molecular Fluorescence Spectrometry					
GALV	Galvanic Probe		X			
GC-ECD	Gas Chromatography - Electron Capture Detection	X	X	X	X	X

