



From: National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (“NELAP”) Accreditation Council  
To: California Primary NELAP Accredited Laboratories  
Date: January 8, 2014  
Subject: California’s Withdrawal from the NELAP Accreditation Program

Dear California NELAP Accredited Laboratory:

On December 30, 2013, David M. Mazzer, Ph.D., Acting Chief of the Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management of the California Department of Public Health (“CDPH”) notified the NELAP Accreditation Council (“NELAP AC”) that it was the intention of California to withdraw from NELAP. Effective January 31, 2014, the CDPH will no longer be a NELAP-recognized Accreditation Body (“NELAP AB”) and your laboratory will not have a valid Primary NELAP AB. I am writing on behalf of the members of the NELAP AC to provide you with information that you will need to obtain primary NELAP Accreditation from another NELAP AB if it is your desire to remain a NELAP accredited laboratory.

The NELAP AC will attempt to make the transition from the CA NELAP program to another NELAP AB as smooth as possible. In this attempt, we would like to remind you that as a CA NELAP accredited laboratory you must now obtain primary NELAP accreditation from another NELAP AB as soon as possible to ensure that any secondary NELAP accreditations do not lapse. Also note that this transition could affect your secondary NELAP accreditations with other NELAP ABs. The NELAP ABs are committed to working with the CA Primary NELAP laboratories in this transition process, however, you must make the first step to reach out to one or more NELAP ABs with your specific questions and/or needs to find the best fit for your laboratory.

As a laboratory that is not physically located in a state that offers NELAP accreditation, you may choose to seek Primary NELAP accreditation from any NELAP AB. However, there are some NELAP ABs that do not accept out-of-state applicants or have limited availability to accept new applicants. The following NELAP ABs are currently actively accepting applications from new applicants for primary accreditation:

- Florida Department of Health  
Contact: Steve Arms, 904-791-1502, [steve.arms@flhealth.gov](mailto:steve.arms@flhealth.gov)  
<http://www.floridahealth.gov/licensing-and-regulation/environmental-laboratories/index.html>
- Kansas Department of Health & Environment  
Contact: Myron Gunsalus, 785-291-3162, [ngunsalus@kdheks.gov](mailto:ngunsalus@kdheks.gov)  
[www.kdhe.state.ks.us/envlab/index.html](http://www.kdhe.state.ks.us/envlab/index.html)
- Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (all matrices except drinking water)  
Contact: Paul Bergeron, 225-219-3247, [paul.bergeron@la.gov](mailto:paul.bergeron@la.gov)  
<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/PublicParticipationandPermitSupport/LouisianaLaboratoryAccreditationProgram.aspx>
- Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals (drinking water chemistry only)  
Contact: Donnell Ward, [Donnell.ward@la.gov](mailto:Donnell.ward@la.gov)  
<http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/490>

- Minnesota Department of Health  
Contact: Susan Wyatt, 651-201-5323, [susan.wyatt@state.mn.us](mailto:susan.wyatt@state.mn.us)  
<http://www.health.state.mn.us/accreditation>
- New York Department of Health  
Contact: Stephanie Ostrowski, 518-485-5570, [seo01@health.state.ny.us](mailto:seo01@health.state.ny.us)  
[www.wadsworth.org/labcert/elap/elap.html](http://www.wadsworth.org/labcert/elap/elap.html)
- Oregon Public Health Division  
Gary Ward, 503-693-4122, [gary.k.ward@state.or.us](mailto:gary.k.ward@state.or.us)  
[www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/orelap/index.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/orelap/index.shtml)
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
Alice Colt, 512-239-3927, [alice.colt@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:alice.colt@tceq.texas.gov)  
[http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/compliance/compliance\\_support/qa/env\\_lab\\_accreditation.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/compliance/compliance_support/qa/env_lab_accreditation.html)
- Utah Department of Health  
Kristin Brown, 801-965-2540, [kristinbrown@utah.gov](mailto:kristinbrown@utah.gov)  
<http://health.utah.gov/lab/environmental-lab-certification/index.html>

A full listing of the NELAP ABs (and contacts) is available on the TNI website ([www.nelac-institute.org/accred-bodies.php](http://www.nelac-institute.org/accred-bodies.php)). If you are interested in seeking Primary NELAP Accreditation from one of the NELAP ABs that is not listed above you should contact the NELAP AB using the contact information provided on the TNI website to inquire if your application would be accepted. If, for instance, you have dual primary accreditations, your other Primary AB may be able to transition the remainder of your fields of accreditation to primary accreditation in their program with minimal disruption and delay. The websites listed above (and on the TNI website) for each NELAP AB should direct you to the appropriate sites to begin to research the individual NELAP AB to determine which one will best suit your needs. Again, you should begin the search for a new NELAP AB immediately.

As a courtesy, the NELAP AC advises that laboratories should be aware that the application process for each NELAP AB is different. All NELAP ABs will require payment of application fees and submission of the appropriate forms. The fees are not the same from one NELAP AB to another and some NELAP ABs contract with third parties to perform on-site assessments and others do not. The NELAP AC encourages you to discuss the application process, fees, and other requirements for accreditation with a particular NELAP AB before submitting an application for accreditation. Also note that part of the application review process from your new Primary NELAP AB will include an evaluation of all PTs performed within the last 18 months; your accreditation status will reflect your current PT performance.

Be advised that at least two NELAP ABs (NY-DOH and MN-DOH) will require submission of a new, valid NELAP accreditation certificate from your new Primary NELAP AB on or before January 31, 2014 in order to continue to grant Secondary NELAP accreditation to any currently accredited NELAP laboratories.

Finally, all questions regarding CDPH's procedures for handling environmental laboratory accreditation applications and the requirements of their state accreditation program should be directed to Fred Choske at 510-620-3175 or [fred.choske@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:fred.choske@cdph.ca.gov).

Thank you in advance for your willingness to work with the NELAP AC to smoothly transition the California NELAP laboratories affected by this change to a new Primary NELAP AB.

Sincerely,



Ms. Aaren S. Alger  
Chair, NELAP Accreditation Council  
Vice Chair, TNI Board of Directors  
Chief, Pennsylvania DEP Laboratory Accreditation Program