

Minutes

Scheduled Conference Date: Thursday, October 04, 2007
Scheduled Start Time: 12:00 PM Central Daylight Time
Scheduled End Time: 1:55 PM Central Daylight Time
Dial-in Number: 1-218-936-1600 (Midwest)
Participant Access Code: 66198

LastName	FirstName	PRESENT
Autry	Lara	N
Coats	Kevin	N
Duncan	Judy	Y
Eaton	Andy	N
English	Zonetta	N
Finazzo	Barbara	Y
Jackson	Kenneth	Y
Moore	Marlene	N
Parr	Jerry	Y
Perry	Michael	N
Pletl	Jim	N
Shields	Aurora	Y
Ward	Gary	N
Wichman	Michael	Y
Wyatt	Susan	N
Wyeth	Bob	N

1. Updates for work assignments from work groups.
 - a. Outreach to other organizations. Jerry attended the DOE consolidated audit program meeting. Lara attended the Edison Electric Institute, Environmental Health & Safety Auditing Task Force Meeting in Washington DC. Jerry will present at the EPA Region VI QA conference. **Jerry and Aurora** will meet October 5 to discuss meetings with other organizations.
 - b. Outreach to EPA.
 - Lara is facilitating a meeting with the office of air for sometime in October.
 - Workgroup for the harmonization of the TNI standard and the drinking water certification manual have not conducted meetings but Lara is in the process of contacting Greg Carol to discuss the preparation of a crosswalk. The crosswalk is necessary and it has to be detailed. The crosswalk is a tool that could serve several purposes: 1) it could be used to show that implementation of the TNI standard meets the EPA drinking water regulatory requirements; 2) it could be used to show that a laboratory implementing the certification manual is not too far from meeting the TNI standard; 3) it could show where the major differences are to identify areas to harmonize; 4) it will also provide the bigger picture.

-Judy Duncan has conducted discussions with Greg Carol about the MOU between TNI and EPA OW. Some discussions are also underway for the NELAP evaluation coordinator and the EPA regions participation on the next AB evaluations. **Barbara F.** will provide an update during the next TNI BoDs call.

c. Fields activities standard. No updates.

- *Work group A - USEPA Science Policy Council - letter addressing laboratory competency. Coordinating efforts with ELAB. Jerry and Marlene will draft the letter, Judy and Barbara.*
 - *Work group B - Next outreach effort with AWWA, NACWA, and WEF. Jerry and Aurora.*
 - *Work group C - EPA OW: Pursue the development of a plan with OW to harmonize the drinking water certification manual and the TNI standard. Andy, Ken, Michael W., and Lara.*
 - *Work group D - Jerry and Lara will help in contacting and developing a plan to meet with EPA Office of Air*
 - *Work group E - EPA Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (James Woolford) which could also include coordination with DOE, DOD, and EPA Office of Emergency Management (Debbie Dietrich and Dana Tulis). Jerry, Marlene, and Barbara.*
 - *Work group F - Kevin, Marlene and Barbara with one invited member from the field activities committee will develop a plan to invite EPA, DOD, DOE, and states to determine implementation and identify the needs for this standard.*
2. USEPA Science Policy Council letter. See attached draft letter. **Barbara** will provide comments by October 12th and the rest of workgroup A will finalize the letter.
 3. Identifying benefits for accreditation. The committee discussed ideas on how to gather the information needed to identify benefits, how to put it together, use it and present it. Studies will focus on the following areas:
 - a. Case studies of NELAP accredited laboratories (municipal, state, regional, commercial, and industrial laboratories taking into consideration not laboratory size only but concentrating on scope and complexity of their accreditation). Several sub-committees from each identified laboratory type will be formed to work on this topic.
 - b. Collect PT data and compare laboratories performance. 1) Compare the before and after accreditation data; 2) compare DMR-QA data between accredited labs and not accredited; 3) compare PT data between NELAP accredited and non-NELAP or not accredited laboratories. Form a subcommittee of PT vendors.
 - c. Identify by case studies or any other means: 1) how the accreditation has been useful in identifying laboratories with competency issues; and 2) how laboratories with competency issues have successfully implemented a quality system to improve operations. These studies could also help in highlighting which elements of accreditation are useful and important. Form a subcommittee of NELAP assessors.
 - d. Ask AIHA about their experience and the benefits they see from accreditation. Other organizations A2LA, ILAC, EA. The advocacy committee will continue to collect this information.

Jerry will prepare a list of TNI members and send an e-mail requesting volunteers to participate in the subcommittees. Jerry will draft the e-mail message to send to the TNI members and share with the advocacy committee for their input. **Zonetta** will act as the facilitator to coordinate and oversee the work of the subcommittees. We should get some members of the technical assistance committee (Barbara Escobar and Jack Farrel) involved in these projects.

4. Adjourn.