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Summary of the Laboratory Accreditation Committee Meeting September 14, 2007

1. Roll call.

The regular meeting of the TNI Laboratory Accreditation Systems Committee (LASC) was called to order by June Flowers, Chair, on September 14, 2007, at 11:00 p.m. EST. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A.

2. Previous minutes

Minutes from the August 24, 2007, meeting in Cambridge, MA, were reviewed and it was suggested that the subcommittee reports section be amended to indicate that complete subcommittee minutes will be posted on the web. The summary was approved for posting with this change.

3. SOP on Standards Interpretation

Following the Cambridge meeting, Jane Wilson advised the LASC that TNI's Policy on Standards Development had a section on standards interpretation that was not consistent with the draft LASC SOP. The Policy on Standards Development is the document on which TNI's application to ANSI for accreditation as a consensus standard development organization is based.

The key differences are that the TNI document allows anyone to request an interpretation, not just TNI members as stated in the LASC draft SOP. The TNI document also requires the initial request to go to the TNI Executive Director. June and Carol Batterton will revise the LASC SOP to be consistent with the TNI Policy on Standards Development.

3. PT Frequency

At the Cambridge meeting, the issue of required frequency of PT analysis was discussed at length. The PT Expert Committee received several comments suggesting that the frequency be changed from 2 successful analyses per year to 1 per year. Some feel that this change will make it easier for some states and small labs to participate. June prepared a draft document to use as a basis for continued discussion. The PT Expert Committee has asked LASC for a recommendation. Comments from committee members included:

- Some labs use PT studies to troubleshoot operations. Would likely do two a year even if not required.
- Would not be a problem to change to 1 PT per year. There are enough client special requirements that more than 1 would likely be done anyway.
- Some states don't participate because they did not want to ask labs to do 2 PT samples. This is more than the DW and DMR water program requires.
- PT frequency might not be the only reason some states don't participate. We need to look at the most cost effective way to assure data quality. We don't know how the number of PT samples relates to data quality.

DRAFT

- PT samples are one way to weed out really bad labs. With just one sample per year, it might take 3 years to know if a lab is really good or bad.
- Is it appropriate for LASC to weigh in on this issue now?
- The PT Expert Committee has asked for input from LASC and the NELAP Board as they prepare Response to Comments.
- We need to have quantitative data in order to make a determination about PT frequency.
- For labs accredited for a single FOT, 1 PT may not be enough, but labs accredited for Potable, Non-potable and Soil would be doing 3 PT's per year.
- Data should be inquired from a state running dual programs. E.g., NJ would have trouble nelac accrediting 600 labs (in their non-nelac program).
- The failure rate of PT's is around 95%, but this data is not specific to nelac or non-nelac labs.

Overall, the consensus was that this issue is significant, but there may not be enough documentation for the PT Expert Committee to make a change to the standard at this time. Further discussion will be held, and the NELAP Board will be consulted. Suggestion was to inquire with the States, particularly PA, NJ and CA since they run dual programs. If the standard was changed to 1 PT/year, when would it be required and how to interpret the data.

4. Next meeting

The next meeting of the LAC will be October 12, 2007, at 11:00 am EDT.

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Attachment A

PARTICIPANTS

TNI

LABORATORY ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

Member	Affiliation	Contact Information
Ann Marie Allen - present	Massachusetts, Non-nelap AB	
Jo Ann Boyd - absent	Southwest Research Institute, Lab	
Lance Boynton-present	Absolute Standards, Inc., PT	
Brooke Conner-present	USGS	T: 303-236-1877 E: bfconor@usgs.gov
Lewis Denny- absent	Florida DOH, AB	
George Detsis - present	Department of Energy, Government	T: 301-903-1488 E: george.detsis@eh.doe.gov
Dan Dickinson-present	New York DOH, AB	
June Flowers – Chairperson	Flowers Chemical Laboratories, Inc., Lab	T: (407) 339-5984 x212 E: june@flowerslabs.com
Terry Grimes- present	Pinellas County Utilities, Municipal Lab	
Dan Hickman- present	Oregon DEQ, AB	
Marvelyn Humphrey-present	USEPA Region 6, EPA	
Roger Kenton-present	Eastman Chemical Company,	
Judy Morgan- present	Environmental Science Corporation, Lab	
Jack McKenzie-present	Kansas DHE, AB	
Leyla Perez- present	Babcock Laboratories, Lab	
Dale Piechocki-present	Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., Lab	
Ilona Taunton - present	TestAmerica Analytical Testing Corp., Lab,	
Carol Batterton - present	TNI Administrator	T: 830-990-1029 E: carbat@beecreek.net