

Laboratory Accreditation System Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 22, 2021 1:30 pm Eastern

1) Welcome and Introductions

Maria welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A. Minutes of June 24 were approved unanimously after a motion by Mike and second from Silky.

Maria noted that Kasey Raley has resigned from the committee, as she has a new position that is not in the environmental lab community, and Louise McGinley was elected as the Vice Chair of the SIR Subcommittee at its July 15 meeting. The stakeholder composition of LASEC as well as the SIR Subcommittee remain in balance, after Kasey's departure.

2) Mentor Session and Assessment Forum

The Mentor Session, scheduled for Tuesday, August 3, will be "Laboratory Quality: Are You in Jeopardy?" and the following presentations will be part of the "game show" format after a mixer called "Quality is in the Eye of the Beholder".

- Quality Responsibilities - Dorothy Love
- MDLs/Control Limits - Michelle Wade
- Corrective Actions - Silky Labie
- Quality Training Tips - Jeanette Hernandez
- Report Formats - Key Requirements - Aaren Alger

The Assessment Forum is scheduled for Thursday, August 5, and will be "Unmasking the 2016 TNI Standard". The morning session will be a series of presentations focusing on new requirements of primarily the Chemistry module of the standard (see below), and the afternoon session will be Panel discussion and an interactive game centered around deficiencies.

- % RSE and RE – What is it and how do I use it? – Aaren Alger Consulting
- Calibration – Creation, Verification, Large Analyte Lists and Dropping Points – Jeanne' Mensingh, Labtopia Inc
- Method blank and DL (MDL) – Mitzi Miller, MQC
- LOD/LOQ – Valerie Slaven, PDC Laboratories, Inc
- Traceability: Where Does it End? – Shawn Kassner, Pace Analytical Services, LLC Corporate

3) SIR Updates

Holding SIR responses closely – As promised, Maria did speak with Paul Junio, Chair of the Consensus Standards Development Executive Committee, about the importance of holding SIR responses closely until they have final approval and are posted on the TNI website. The two Chairs planned to talk again, as no agreement was yet reached about how to accomplish our goal.

SIR tracking spreadsheet – The SIR tracking spreadsheet has not been updated since the June meeting, so no new update was provided. Ilona is quite busy with conference preparations.

SIRs originating from disputes – An issue about SIRs originating from disputes over assessment findings has arisen several times recently, even though the SIR submissions gave no hint that they originated from a dispute, and were truly valid, reasonable requests for clarification of the standard. However, the AB recognized the issues and became quite insistent that no SIR be accepted if it were learned to have originated from a dispute. In response to Lynn's request for a suggestion about how to address the issue, a proposal was submitted and shared with LASEC for consideration by email, prior to the meeting, and several committee members offered suggestions and solutions for addressing the issue.

Committee members recognize that while a SIR might originate out of different readings (interpretations) of the standard that arise during an assessment, there was never any intent to restrict the submission of valid questions. The complaining AB (and all other ABs) were advised that they need never defer to the SIR processes during an assessment, and clearly, there is no way for the Chairs who determine SIR validity, per the SOP 3-105, to know whether any given SIR relates to an assessment, or not. The possibility of a SIR response injecting TNI into the legal process of the state (however that takes place) was raised, but the standard itself is essentially the foundation of the entire accreditation process, and clarifying the intent of the language of the standard is properly the purview of the expert committee that wrote it.

There was general agreement that any submitted SIR deemed "valid" by the NELAP leadership (Maria as LASEC Chair and Kristin as NELAP AC Chair, per the SIR Management SOP 3-105) should be addressed by the relevant expert committee, regardless of how the lack of clarity was discovered. At the same time, participants agreed that, while we need to make clear that the SIR process is entirely independent of the NELAP AB assessment processes, SIRs are important for maintenance and continuous improvement of the Standard itself.

After discussion and consideration of a variety of suggested resolutions, Louise moved and Mike seconded that the website should be modified to state the following, a modification of the suggestion offered by a committee member during the email discussion:

Proposed change: *Please remember that any disputes between a laboratory and their AB regarding accreditation are to be handled through the appropriate appeals process established by applicable state laws and regulations. Any SIR **submission that originates** with such a dispute may be rejected.*

All 8 members present voted in favor of this revision, but that did not meet the required two-thirds majority, so an email continuation of the vote was conducted. As of Monday, July 26, three additional votes were cast in favor (11 of 13), so the motion passed. Lynn will notify the TNI webmaster to make the change and to somehow call out or highlight the modified text on the SIR submission web page. She will also make the necessary changes to the SIR Management SOP 3-105 (and any other changes triggered by this

decision) when Policy Committee returns its comments from the now-ongoing review of the last year's revisions, before returning the revised SOP for committee approval.

4) New Business

Maria asked how many committee members plan to participate in the conference session, and we estimate that at least seven will do so.

Aaren moved and Mike seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

5) Next Meeting

The next LASEC meeting will be the virtual conference session on Monday, August 9, at 3:15 pm Eastern. All committee members registered for the TNI track of conference are invited to participate.

The August teleconference meeting is cancelled. The next teleconference meeting will be **Thursday, September 23, 2021, at 1:30 pm Eastern time**. An agenda and documents will be provided prior to the meeting.

**Attachment A TNI LABORATORY ACCREDITATION SYSTEMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
ROSTER**

	NAME	EMAIL	Term End Date	INTEREST	AFFILIATION	S/H CATEGORY	PRESENT
1	Maria Friedman, Chair	gamfriedman@gmail.com	1/23 (first term)	SIRs	CA ELAP	AB	Yes
2	Dorothy Love, Vice Chair	dorothylove@eurofinsus.com	1/22 (2nd term)	Mentor Session	Eurofins Environmental	Lab	No
3	Aaren Alger	Aaren.s.alger@gmail.com	1/23 (first term)	SIRs	Alger Consulting & Training	Other	Yes
4	David Caldwell	david.caldwell@deq.ok.gov	1/23 (first term)	Assmt. Forum, SIRs	OK DEQ	NELAP AB	Yes
5	Sumy Cherukara	Cherukara.sumy@epa.gov	1/23 (2nd term)		EPA R2	Other	Yes
6	Stacie Crandall	scrandall@hrsd.com	1/24 (first term)	SIRs	Hampton Roads Sanitation Distr.	Lab	No
7	Mike Delaney	mike@mikedelaney.org	1/23 (first term)		Retired (MWRA)	Other	Yes
8	Jack Farrell	aex@ix.netcom.com	1/22 (first term)	Mentor Session	Analytical Excellence	Other	No
9	Silky Labie	elcatllc@centurylink.net	1/21 (first term)	SIRs	ELCAT	Other	Yes
10	Bill Hall	George.Hall@des.nh.gov	1/22 (first term)		NH ELAP	NELAP AB	No
11	Harold Longbaugh	harold.longbaugh@houstontx.gov	1/23 (2nd term)	SIRs	Houston Lab	Lab	Yes
12	Louise McGinley	louise.mcginley@tceq.texas.gov	1/22 (first term)	SIRs	TCEQ	NELAP AB	Yes
13	Michele Potter	michele.potter@dep.nj.gov	1/21 (first term)		NJ DEP	NELAP AB	No

Associate Members

	Debbie Bond	DBOND@southernco.com			Alabama Power	Lab	Yes
	Myron Gunsalus	ngunsalus@kdheks.gov			KS Lab Director	NELAP AB	No
	Carl Kircher	carl.kircher@doh.state.fl.us		SIRs	FL DOH	NELAP AB	Yes
	Mitzi Miller	mitzi.miller@moellerinc.com		Mentor Session & Assmt Forum	Dade Moeller	Other	No
	Judy Morgan	Judy.Morgan@pacelabs.com		Assessment Forum	Pace Analytical	Lab/FSMO	No
	William Ray	Bill_Ray@williamrayllc.com			Wm Ray Consultants	Other	No
	Mohan Sabaratnam	msabaratanam@iasonline.org			IAS	AB (non-gov.)	No
	Scott Siders	siders6six@yahoo.com		Mentor Session	Retired	Other	No
	Nick Straccione	nstraccione@emsl.com		Mentor Session	EMSL	Lab	No
	Katie Strothman	katie@sanderslabs.net			Sanders Labs	Lab	No
	Program Admin. Lynn Bradley	Lynn.bradley@nelac-institute.org					Yes