

Summary of the NELAP Accreditation Council Meeting
January 27, 2016

1. Roll Call

The NELAP Accreditation Council (AC) met at 8:00 am Central time on Wednesday, January 27, 2016, at the Forum on Environmental Accreditation, Tulsa, OK. Those members physically present and those present by telephone are listed in Attachment 1.

2. Introductions

Aaren welcomed the attendees and the Council members introduced themselves. She announced that Steve Arms was about to retire from the State of Florida and thanked him for his valuable work and contributions over the years to the Council. Steve said Carl Kircher would take over as the FL representative, with Vanessa as the alternate. Aaren also announced that Scott Siders had been replaced by Celeste Crowley as representative of the ILEPA.

3. Status of AB renewals

Aaren said 9 of 14 ABs had been renewed, another 2 were undergoing review of corrective actions after the on-site visits, 2 on-site visits were scheduled for March, and the MN application was due the next week. A new application from OK was expected very soon, and KY had expressed an interest in becoming a NELAP AB.

4. Report from LASEC

Judy Morgan described the LASEC process for reviewing standards for suitability to be adopted by NELAP. She said the V1M4 calibration standard was received in November and would be presented to the Council with a recommendation for adoption. LASEC had also reviewed 3 more standards:

- V1M3 (Asbestos) was approved by LASEC in November, having satisfied the criteria of being implementable and auditable. However, it was hoped for an expansion of the breadth of testing criteria in the next standards revision cycle.
- V1M6 (Radiochemistry) was found to meet the criteria.
- V1M7 (Aquatic Toxicity). The new Whole Effluent Toxicity Expert Committee recommended staying with the 2009 version of this standard, because the 2012 version had some problems with the Demonstration of Capability section.

Judy reported that LASEC had also received the Final Standard for V1M4 Detection and Quantitation, and would be reviewing it shortly.

Aaren said the AC would review each standard following its recommendation by LASEC,

when any questions or problems would be discussed. On receipt of the entire 2016 standard, they would discuss an implementation date (probably about 2 years).

As a follow-up, each AB reported which version of the standard they were currently accrediting: PA 2009; FL 2003; UT 2009; TX 2009; OR 2009; KS 2003; MN 2003 and 2009 (laboratories declare which they will abide by); NJ 2009; LADEQ 2009; LADHH 2009; VA 2009; IL 2009; NY 2003; NH 2003.

5. Availability of Asbestos Proficiency Test (PT) samples

The only approved PT provider of Potable Water asbestos samples (required by EPA) was the NYSDOH, who had announced they could only provide them to laboratories accredited in NY. However, Dan Hautman of the USEPA OW announced that RTI had agreed to expand its Air and Bulk Asbestos offerings to include Potable Water (and perhaps Non-Potable Water). It was anticipated the PT program would be ready by October 2016, and RTI wanted to run an exploratory round robin with the next few months. Jerry Parr reminded the attendees that Volume 3 of the standard requires all PT Providers to be accredited, and RTI did not meet that requirement even though EPA would approve it. It was reported, however, that RTI was interested in pursuing accreditation, being already ISO 17043 approved.

Aaren asked for this to be put on the state assessor's conference call as an agenda item.

6. Policies

Aaren reported that a mutual recognition policy had been adopted by the AC, and this would be particularly helpful for new ABs. A sub-group was amending the evaluation process to reduce costs and make it more effective. Other policies had been discussed at the Chicago meeting and LASEC was working on them.

Jerry announced a policy on entering data into the national database, and Dan Hickman was asked to give an update. He said there were still a few difficulties he was fixing, and said he would help states upload data if needed. He asked ABs to look at their lists of laboratories to make sure they were current. Dan said changing a laboratory from active to inactive was a manual process. An app would be available for ABs to compare primary accreditation with their secondary accreditation (to help them upload as a secondary AB). Dan stressed the need to make it work saying he would work with each AB, to ask if and how they would use the database. He asked ABs to look at the generic application to check if enough information was being gathered, and he asked if a different form was required for mobile laboratories. Jerry added that the generic application would be a member benefit for all members to use at no cost. Non-members could purchase a subscription.

7. Consideration of V1M4, Sections 1.7.1 and 1.7.2

This was the calibration final standard recommended by LASEC for adoption with two editorial changes. Aaren opened this for discussion. It was moved for adoption by Steve Arms and seconded by Kristin Brown. There was no further discussion and each state was asked to vote on the motion individually with the following in favor: FL, KS, LADEQ, LADHH, MN, NJ, NY, OR, PA, TX, UT, and VA. There were no negative votes or abstentions. Celeste asked for the IL vote to be deferred until she had time to study the standard. Aaren said IL and NH would be asked to vote within the next two weeks.

8. Adjournment

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 am CST

Attachment 1

STATE	REPRESENTATIVE	PRESENT
FL	Stephen Arms T: (904) 791-1502 F: (904) 791-1591 E: steve.arms@flhealth.gov	Yes
	Alternate: Carl Kircher E: carl.kircher@flhealth.gov	Yes
IL	Celeste Crowley T: 217-557-0274 F: 217-524-6169 E: celeste.crowley@illinois.gov	Yes (by phone)
	Alternate: Janet Cruse T: 217-785-0601 E: Janet.Cruse@illinois.gov	No
KS	N. Myron Gunsalus 785-291-3162 E: ngunsalus@kdheks.gov	Yes
	Alternate: Sara Hoffman shoffman@kdheks.gov	yes
	Included for information purposes: Nick Reams nreams@kdheks.gov	No
LA DEQ	Paul Bergeron T: 225-219-3185 E: Paul.Bergeron@la.gov	Yes (by phone)
	Altérnate: TBD	
LA DHH	Donnell Ward T: E: donnell.ward@la.gov	Yes (by phone)
	Alternate: TBD	
MN	Lynn Boysen E: lynn.boysen@state.mn.us	Yes
	Alternate: TBD	
NH	Bill Hall T: (603) 271-2998 F: (603) 271-5171 E: george.hall@des.nh.gov	No

	Alternate: Tyler Croteau Tyler.Croteau@des.nh.gov	
NJ	Michele Potter T: (609) 984-3870 F: (609) 777-1774 E: michele.potter@dep.nj.gov	Yes (by phone)
	Alternate : Rachel Ellis E: rachel.ellis@dep.nj.gov	No
NY	Mike Ryan T: (518) 473-3424 F: (518) 485-5568 E: michael.ryan@health.ny.gov	No
	Alternate: Victoria Pretti victoria.pretti@health.ny.gov	Yes (by phone)
	Included for information purposes: Lynn McNaughton lynn.mcnaughton@health.ny.gov	No
OR	Gary Ward T: 503-693-4122 F: 503-693-5602 E: gary.k.ward@state.or.us	Yes
	Shannon Swantek T: 503-693-5784 E: Shannon.swantek@state.or.us	No
	Included for information purposes: Scott Hoatson T: (503) 693-5786 E: hoatson.scott@deq.state.or.us	No
PA	Aaren Alger T: (717) 346-8212 F: (717) 346-8590 E: aaalger@pa.gov	Yes (by phone)
	Alternate: Yumi Creason E: ycreason@pa.gov	No
TX	Ken Lancaster T: (512) 239-1990 E: Ken.Lancaster@tceq.texas.gov	Yes
	Julie Eldredge E: Julie.Eldredge@tceq.texas.gov	No
UT	Kristin Brown T: (801) 965-2540 F: (801) 965-2544 E: kristinbrown@utah.gov	Yes

	Alternate: Jill Jones T: (801) 965-3899 E: jilljones@utah.gov	No
VA	Cathy Westerman T: 804-648-4480 ext.391 E: cathy.westerman@dgs.virginia.gov	Yes (by phone)
	Alternate: Ed Shaw T: 804-648-4480 ext.152 E: ed.shaw@dgs.virginia.gov	No
NELAP AC PA and EC	Lynn Bradley T: 540-885-5736 E: lynn.bradley@nelac-institute.org	No
EPA Liaison	Donna Ringel T: 732-321-4383 E: Ringel.Donna@epa.gov	Yes (by phone)
California	Christine Sotelo Christine.Sotelo@waterboards.ca.gov	No
Oklahoma	David Caldwell E: David.Caldwell@deq.ok.gov	No
Guests:	Judy Morgan, Chair, LASEC judy.morgan@pacelabs.com Dan Hickman, TNI Database Administrator, dan.hickman@nelac-institute.org	Yes