

**Summary of the NELAP Accreditation Council Meeting  
Monday, October 4, 2021 1:30 pm Eastern**

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Kristin welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes of September 7 were approved unanimously. Attendance is noted in Attachment 1.

The results of the two email votes from the September 7 meeting were as follows:

- Renewal of Recognition for Oklahoma – 12 in favor with OK abstaining and LA DEQ not voting.
- Approval of revisions to NELAP Evaluation SOP 3-102 – 12 votes in favor with FL and LA DEQ not voting.

**2. Finalizing the Updated Technical Manager Concept**

Jerry Parr returned to explain the further revisions to the Competency Task Force's proposal. He explained that Options 1 and 2 have been set aside for now, and that, from Cathy's suggestion, the new term will likely be "Technical Expert" instead of the former subject matter expert. Other tweaks to the document are removing the course credit hours for the required microbiology course (these seem to vary dramatically) and requiring the degree from an accredited college (with accreditation recognized by the US Department of Education or an international organization accepted by US DOE for non-US schools). Also, the possibility of an AB granting an exception (as is allowed in the EPA Certification Manual) would be explicitly permitted.

Jerry asked that all ABs consider the proposed changes, consulting with others in their state as needed, and provide feedback by December so that the Competency Task Force can prepare for the joint committee meeting with Training, at conference in San Antonio.

He then explained that the joint session will delve further into the concept of credentialing with required professional development and CEUs as evidence of continuous improvement, and perhaps discuss potential training courses that might lead to credentialing for assessors, technical experts and quality managers.

**3. Discussion of Possible Accreditation for PCR Testing of Wastewater for SARS-CoV-2**

Prior to the meeting, Lynn had sent a query to all NELAP ABs about whether they would be interested in possibly accrediting PCR (a new technology for environmental testing) as it is used in wastewater epidemiology to investigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus, SARS-CoV-2. An article in Environmental Science and Technology earlier in the year documented that labs were reporting results from PCR testing using fluorescence technology for this virus, with inadequate quality control, which led to documentation of a method checklist for the testing (spearheaded by ACIL) and some discussion of the potential benefits of accreditation for such testing. As there is currently no regulatory requirement for this public health testing, not all ABs are expressing interest in accreditation, but those ABs that are associated with the public health labs in their state do seem interested, and many ABs expressed interest in obtaining training in the assessment of PCR technology. Several participants commented that EPA is developing a PCR method for coliforms and enterococcus in recreational waters, so providing training in the method/technology itself might also be valuable.

A list of unused method codes proposed for retirement by Dan Hickman was briefly discussed. These are unused codes (i.e., no one lists any lab as being accredited for the method) and mostly have no version or date associated with them, while equivalent methods with version/date identifier are also in active use. Jerry will notify Dan that the ABs are reviewing the list.

#### **4. New Business**

Lynn asked that ABs that voted “not voting” for SIR 403 please change the vote to either approve or against, and that the remaining ABs please cast a vote. As it stood at meeting time, this SIR was earlier discussed but with the current number of “not voting” votes, even if all outstanding votes are in favor, it cannot pass.

Also, there have been several casual requests to have NELAP policies and procedures included in the AB operations module of the Standard, V2M1. Lynn provided a link to all of these documents, and noted that they all pertain to the NELAP accreditation scheme (not the NGABs) and that most involve recognition and evaluation of ABs, an area where the ISO/IEC 17011 foundational document for V2M1 is silent. Thus, adding any of the policy or procedural requirements would involve a considerable expansion of the current Standard, bringing back the details from the 2003 NELAC Standard which all parties have previously agreed do not belong in the Standard. Carl invited any and all who wish to discuss this further to notify Lynn and join the October 19 (1 pm Eastern) Laboratory Accreditation Body Expert Committee meeting, or at least to let Lynn know what specific additions to the Standard are desired. As there was no written formal comment about this topic, no related changes will be made without further input.

#### **5. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the NELAP AC will be on Monday, November 1, 2021, at 1:30 pm Eastern. Michele will lead this meeting, as Kristin will be unavailable, and the agenda and documents will be provided in advance.

**Attachment 1**

<b>STATE</b>	<b>REPRESENTATIVE</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>
FL	Carl Kircher E: <a href="mailto:carl.kircher@flhealth.gov">carl.kircher@flhealth.gov</a>	Yes
	Alternate: Vanessa Soto E: <a href="mailto:Vanessa.sotocontreras@flhealth.gov">Vanessa.sotocontreras@flhealth.gov</a>	No
IL	Millie Rose T: 217-557-0220 E: <a href="mailto:mildred.rose@illinois.gov">mildred.rose@illinois.gov</a>	Yes
	For information purposes: Dave Reed E: <a href="mailto:Dave.Reed@Illinois.gov">Dave.Reed@Illinois.gov</a>	No
	For information purposes: John South E: <a href="mailto:john.south@illinois.gov">john.south@illinois.gov</a>	Yes
	For information purposes: Shirlene South E: <a href="mailto:shirlene.south@illinois.gov">shirlene.south@illinois.gov</a>	No
KS	Carissa Robertson <a href="mailto:Carissa.Robertson@ks.gov">Carissa.Robertson@ks.gov</a> (785) 291-3162	Yes
	Alternate: Paul Harrison <a href="mailto:paul.harrison@ks.gov">paul.harrison@ks.gov</a> (785) 296-1656	Yes
	For information purposes: N. Myron Gunsalus T: <a href="tel:785-291-3162">785-291-3162</a> E: <a href="mailto:myron.gunsalus@ks.gov">myron.gunsalus@ks.gov</a>	No
	For information purposes: Amy Suggitt <a href="mailto:Amy.Suggitt@ks.gov">Amy.Suggitt@ks.gov</a>	No
	For information purposes: Daniel Vang <a href="mailto:Daniel.Vang@ks.gov">Daniel.Vang@ks.gov</a>	No
LA DEQ	Kimberly Hamilton-Wims T: 225-219-3247 E: <a href="mailto:Kimberly.Hamilton-Wims@la.gov">Kimberly.Hamilton-Wims@la.gov</a>	No
	Altérnate: Elizabeth West E: <a href="mailto:elizabeth.west@la.gov">elizabeth.west@la.gov</a>	Yes
MN	Lynn Boysen E: <a href="mailto:lynn.boysen@state.mn.us">lynn.boysen@state.mn.us</a>	Yes

	Alternate: Stephanie Drier T: 651-201-5326 E: <a href="mailto:stephanie.drier@state.mn.us">stephanie.drier@state.mn.us</a>	No
NH	Bill Hall T: (603) 271-2998 F: (603) 271-5171 E: <a href="mailto:george.hall@des.nh.gov">george.hall@des.nh.gov</a>	No
	Alternate: Brian Lamarsh <a href="mailto:Brian.Lamarsh@des.nh.gov">Brian.Lamarsh@des.nh.gov</a>	Yes
NJ	Michele Potter T: (609) 984-3870 F: (609) 777-1774 E: <a href="mailto:michele.potter@dep.nj.gov">michele.potter@dep.nj.gov</a>	Yes
	Alternate : Rachel Ellis E: rachel.ellis@dep.nj.gov	No
NY	Victoria Pretti 518-485-5570 E: <a href="mailto:victoria.pretti@health.ny.gov">victoria.pretti@health.ny.gov</a>	No
	Alternate: Lynn McNaughton E: <a href="mailto:lynn.mcnaughton@health.ny.gov">lynn.mcnaughton@health.ny.gov</a>	No
OK	David Caldwell (405) 702-1000 E: <a href="mailto:David.Caldwell@deq.ok.gov">David.Caldwell@deq.ok.gov</a>	Yes
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OR	Travis Bartholomew T: 503-693-4122 E: <a href="mailto:travis.j.bartholomew@dhsosha.state.or.us">travis.j.bartholomew@dhsosha.state.or.us</a>	No
	Alternate: Lizbeth Garcia 971 865 0443 E: <a href="mailto:Lizbeth.garcia@dhsosha.state.or.us">Lizbeth.garcia@dhsosha.state.or.us</a>	No
	Included for information purposes: Ryan Pangelinan E: <a href="mailto:Ryan.pangelinan@dhsosha.state.or.us">Ryan.pangelinan@dhsosha.state.or.us</a>	Yes
	Included for information purposes: Sara Krepps Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (503) 693-5704 E: <a href="mailto:sara.krepps@state.or.us">sara.krepps@state.or.us</a>	No
PA	Annmarie Beach E: <a href="mailto:anbeach@pa.gov">anbeach@pa.gov</a> T: 717-346-8212	Yes

	Alternate: Amber Ross <a href="mailto:ambross@pa.gov">ambross@pa.gov</a>	Yes
	Included for information purposes: Dana Marshall <a href="mailto:dmarshall@pa.gov">dmarshall@pa.gov</a>	No
TX	Steve Gibson (512) 239-1316 <a href="mailto:Steve.Gibson@tceq.texas.gov">Steve.Gibson@tceq.texas.gov</a>	Yes
	Jody Koehler (512) 239-1990 <a href="mailto:Jody.Koehler@tceq.texas.gov">Jody.Koehler@tceq.texas.gov</a>	No
UT	Kristin Brown T: <a href="tel:(801)965-2540">(801) 965-2540</a> F: <a href="tel:(801)965-2544">(801) 965-2544</a> E: <a href="mailto:kristinbrown@utah.gov">kristinbrown@utah.gov</a>	Yes
	Alternate: Alia Rauf T: 801-965-2511 E: <a href="mailto:arauf@utah.gov">arauf@utah.gov</a>	No
VA	Cathy Westerman T: 804-648-4480 ext.391 E: <a href="mailto:cathy.westerman@dgs.virginia.gov">cathy.westerman@dgs.virginia.gov</a>	Yes
NELAP AC PA and EC	Lynn Bradley T: 540-885-5736 E: <a href="mailto:lynn.bradley@nelac-institute.org">lynn.bradley@nelac-institute.org</a>	Yes
EPA Liaison	Eric Graybill <a href="mailto:Graybill.eric@epa.gov">Graybill.eric@epa.gov</a>	Yes
California	Christine Sotelo <a href="mailto:Christine.Sotelo@waterboards.ca.gov">Christine.Sotelo@waterboards.ca.gov</a>	No
Guest	Jerry Parr, TNI Executive Director <a href="mailto:Jerry.Parr@nelac-institute.org">Jerry.Parr@nelac-institute.org</a>	