

**Summary of the NELAP Accreditation Council Meeting
Monday, February 7, 2022 1:30 pm Eastern**

1. Welcome and Introductions

Kristin welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes of January 3 and January 19 were approved unanimously. Attendance is noted in Attachment 1.

2. Reporting Accredited Labs into LAMS

At conference, Dan Hickman had brought this issue up in both the LAB Expert Committee and the NELAP AC sessions. SIR 413 asked whether the TNI Standard requires reporting secondary accreditations into LAMS, and while the PT module V2M2 requires reporting, it is silent about secondary accreditations, and V2M1 does not mention the TNI database at all. When TNI replaced the 2003 NELAC Standard, which did require such reporting, with the current ISO-based Standard, a number of NELAP-specific activities were omitted with the intent to put those into NELAP policies, which were never created. Additionally, the concept of a “supplemental” primary AB (to add methods that the original AB does not offer) was never anticipated.

To address this missing activity, Dan provided new language for the NELAP Mutual Recognition Policy POL 3-100, and asked that the Council adopt it. The new language requires uploading demographic information into LAMS every three months, and uploading both primary and secondary accreditations monthly (as a minimum), even if there are no changes. ABs may choose to upload more frequently, and only the primary AB (not the supplemental one) may upload demographic information for a lab. Lynn had distributed a draft of POL 3-100 with Dan’s language inserted.

Dan has also offered to provide language for the Draft Standard V2M1, which will be discussed separately in the LAB committee.

Kristin thanked Dan for joining the meeting, and as there were no further questions for him, he departed. Then, Stephanie moved and Paul seconded that the revised POL 3-100 be approved. The vote was unanimously in favor of approval, with Florida abstaining. The revised policy has been sent to Policy Committee for review.

3. Environmental Justice Activities

David had asked to discuss this topic. His agency is looking at how to address federal environmental justice requirements, and in particular, they asked him to inquire whether a Spanish language translation of the TNI Standard was available or even possible.

A lively discussion took place. Carl noted that CASCO has a Spanish Language Task Force which has created a Spanish translation of ISO/IEC 17025, copyrighted by ISO. Other ideas were to have Spanish-speaking TNI members serve as mentors to labs needing assistance with comprehending the fine points of the existing English language version, or to translate the Small Lab Handbook, instead of the Standard. Stephanie noted that she is trying to make MN’s accredited lab list searchable in other languages, and suggested that might be something to look into with LAMS as well. Another suggestion was to find a grad student needing a project to do any translation decided upon.

Because the level of interest was so high, David asked to put this issue on the agenda for the TNI Board of Directors, which met on February 9. At that time, Jerry committed to researching what the latest EPA Administrator's directives are about environmental justice, but also noted that, as a non-governmental organization receiving no federal funding, TNI is not obligated to address the issue, although we are certainly not opposed to the concept.

4. SIR 402 Discussion

Even the "Committee Comment" returned states that the Standard does not address the issue, and it was noted that an unambiguous interpretation cannot be made. Kristin asked that every SIR voter please vote so that this SIR can be addressed somehow. NOTE: While SIR 402 is unlikely to be approved, there remain four outstanding votes and two "needs discussion" votes, so that until more votes are cast, no definitive action can be taken. The current posting is a revised response already.

5. New Business

Kristin stated that Nevada is interested in becoming a NELAP AB; they already use the 2003 NELAC Standard "by reference" in regulation. She and Cathy spoke with Mike Antoine and Don LaFara the previous week, and invited them to participate in the Council, as others have while they were preparing to apply for recognition. NV's next step is to present the idea to the state laboratory organization. While the NV representatives were unable to participate in the February Council meeting, they do plan to attend in March.

6. Next Meeting

The next teleconference meeting of the NELAP AC is scheduled for Monday, March 7, 2022, at 1:30 pm Eastern. An agenda and documents will be provided in advance.

Attachment 1

STATE	REPRESENTATIVE	PRESENT
FL	Carl Kircher E: carl.kircher@flhealth.gov	Yes
	Alternate: Vanessa Soto E: Vanessa.sotocontreras@flhealth.gov	Yes
IL	Millie Rose T: 217-557-0220 E: mildred.rose@illinois.gov	Yes
	For information purposes: Dave Reed E: Dave.Reed@Illinois.gov	No
	For information purposes: John South E: john.south@illinois.gov	Yes
	For information purposes: Shirlene South E: shirlene.south@illinois.gov	No
KS	Carissa Robertson Carissa.Robertson@ks.gov (785) 291-3162	Yes
	Alternate: Paul Harrison paul.harrison@ks.gov (785) 296-1656	Yes
	For information purposes: N. Myron Gunsalus T: 785-291-3162 E: myron.gunsalus@ks.gov	No
	For information purposes: Amy Suggitt Amy.Suggitt@ks.gov	No
LA DEQ	Elizabeth West E: elizabeth.west@la.gov	Yes
	Alternate: Paul Bergeron Paul.bergeron@la.gov	No
MN	Lynn Boysen E: lynn.boysen@state.mn.us	No
	Alternate: Stephanie Drier T: 651-201-5326 E: stephanie.drier@state.mn.us	Yes

NH	Bill Hall T: (603) 271-2998 F: (603) 271-5171 E: george.hall@des.nh.gov	Yes
	Alternate: Brian Lamarsh Brian.Lamarsh@des.nh.gov	No
NJ	Michele Potter T: (609) 984-3870 F: (609) 777-1774 E: michele.potter@dep.nj.gov	Yes
	Alternate : Rachel Ellis E: rachel.ellis@dep.nj.gov	No
NY	Victoria Pretti 518-485-5570 E: victoria.pretti@health.ny.gov	Yes
	Alternate: Lynn McNaughton E: lynn.mcnaughton@health.ny.gov	No
OK	David Caldwell (405) 702-1000 E: David.Caldwell@deq.ok.gov	Yes
	Alternate: Ryan Lerch Ryan.Lerch@deq.ok.gov (405) 702-1020	Yes
OR	Travis Bartholomew T: 503-693-4122 E: travis.j.bartholomew@dhsosha.state.or.us	No
	Alternate: Lizbeth Garcia 971 865 0443 E: Lizbeth.garcia@dhsosha.state.or.us	No
	Included for information purposes: Ryan Pangelinan E: Ryan.pangelinan@dhsosha.state.or.us	No
	Included for information purposes: Sara Krepps Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (503) 693-5704 E: sara.krepps@state.or.us	No
PA	Annamarie Beach E: anbeach@pa.gov T: 717-346-8212	Yes
	Alternate: Amber Ross ambross@pa.gov	Yes

	Included for information purposes: Dana Marshall dmarshall@pa.gov	No
TX	Steve Gibson (512) 239-1316 Steve.Gibson@tceq.texas.gov	No
	Jody Koehler (512) 239-1990 Jody.Koehler@tceq.texas.gov	No
UT	Kristin Brown T: (801) 965-2540 F: (801) 965-2544 E: kristinbrown@utah.gov	Yes
	Alternate: Alia Rauf T: 801-965-2511 E: arauf@utah.gov	No
VA	Cathy Westerman T: 804-648-4480 ext.391 E: cathy.westerman@dgs.virginia.gov	Yes
	Alternate: Shane Wyatt shane.wyatt@dgs.virginia.gov	No
NELAP AC PA and EC	Lynn Bradley T: 540-885-5736 E: lynn.bradley@nelac-institute.org	Yes
EPA Liaison	Eric Graybill Graybill.eric@epa.gov	No
CA	Christine Sotelo Christine.Sotelo@waterboards.ca.gov	No
NV	Michael Antoine mantoine@ndep.nv.gov	No
NV	Dan LaFara dlafara@ndep.nv.gov	No
Guest	Dan Hickman, TNI Database Administrator Dan.hickman@nelac-institute.org	Yes