

## **Summary of the NELAP Accreditation Council Meeting March 4, 2019**

### **1. Introductions**

The NELAP Accreditation Council (AC) met at 1:30 pm Eastern on Monday, March 4, 2019. Minutes from January 7 and January 28, 2019, were approved unanimously with one minor edit required to the KS implementation status in the January 28 minutes. Those present are listed in Attachment 1.

### **2. Discussion of Aroclor PTs, Continued from Conference Session**

In 2018, PTPEC sent for AC approval a revised FoPT tables for Non-potable Water and Solid Chemical Materials in response to an Analyte Request Application (ARA) from NJ, intended to address the problem that a lab can repeatedly fail the Aroclor PT (containing one of 7 PCB congeners) while not failing the same analyte twice in a row. The revision was returned to PTPEC unapproved, and Aaren, Michele and Cathy met with PTPEC to discuss the actual problem and seek a solution, but no solution was proposed and the ARA was eventually closed out with no action.

A number of possible solutions were discussed at conference, including asking the PT Expert Committee (PTEC) to address this in its next revision of the PT modules and using a qualitative FoPT for Aroclors. The scope of the problem (labs failing PTs but retaining accreditation) justifies some action. Another point made by the PT Providers and PTEC was that an AB can change the scoring of a PT sample reported by a PTP.

Consensus formed around the concept of requesting a new FoPT table for qualitative scoring of Aroclors with a footnote stating that to pass all Aroclors, the lab must pass all analytes on the new FoPT table. Cathy agreed to draft this language and circulate it, requesting comments prior to the next Council meeting.

### **3. PTPEC Request for approval of new FoPT tables for NPW and DW**

Both the Non-potable Water and Drinking Water FoPT tables were modified to address an ARA from EPA that two different technologies (tubes and wells) used for MPN testing (most probable number) be listed as separate, rather than just the one existing item for MPN testing.

Concerns were raised that there would likely be too few PTs using the “tube” technology to provide adequate statistical power for scoring the PTs, since very few labs still use that older technology. This would result in a situation where PT failure never happened.

Consensus was that the revised FoPT tables would not provide a “suitable challenge” as proposed, due to the limited number of labs using that technology. Lynn agreed to (and did) communicate this to the PTPEC, with an offer that the Council will gladly consult with PTPEC to resolve the ARA, if desired.

### **4. Technical Director Qualifications**

Kristin explained that the Quality Systems Expert Committee (QS) has been discussing with other expert committees whether and how to revise the Technical Director qualifications

language in V1M2. As part of this effort, QS and/or some of the expert committees intend to ask the NELAP ABs whether any have relevant language in statute or regulation that would need to be considered in this revision. Kristin anticipates that this will happen within the next few months.

As follow-up to its session in Milwaukee, the Advocacy Committee is planning to survey NELAP ABs about possible usage of Non-governmental AB accreditations and whether any aspect of those accreditations could be utilized in a lab seeking to obtain NELAP accreditation. Advocacy met a few days after this AC meeting but final questions are not yet available.

## **5. Five-Year Reviews of NELAP SOPs**

Draft revisions of three SOPs were presented with the following edits offered or added during discussion:

### NELAP Dispute Resolution SOP 3-104

This SOP requires only minimal technical edits such as changing “NELAP Board” to NELAP Accreditation Council, and a minor revision of §6.2 to remove the requirement to publish information about the dispute on the TNI website after resolution.

### NELAP Voting SOP 3-101

The Policy Committee has requested that, since there is only one definition of “quorum” in Robert’s Rules of Order, the use of the term “full quorum” to mean two-thirds of the Council be removed. This can be accomplished by setting a “voting rule” explaining that, for matters of accreditation, two-thirds of the membership must be present to initiate action and at least two-thirds of the membership must approve the motion presented.

### NELAP Provisional Recognition SOP 3-108

This SOP needs its definitions updated to match those in the glossary, and §7.3 will be revised to adapt to the now-annual issuance of certificates of recognition. In addition, in Appendix B, the requirement that a provisionally recognized AB note that status on its web page will be removed.

Participants were asked to send any other requested edits to Lynn by email. All three SOPs will be presented in draft final form at the April meeting, for approval.

## **6. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Council will Monday, April 1, 2019, at 1:30 pm Eastern. The agenda and documents will be shared in advance.

**Attachment 1**

STATE	REPRESENTATIVE	PRESENT
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
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	For information purposes: John South John.South@illinois.gov	No
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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
	Alternate: Elizabeth West <a href="mailto:elizabeth.west@la.gov">elizabeth.west@la.gov</a>	Yes
LA DOH	Grant Aucoin <a href="mailto:Grant.aucoin@la.gov">Grant.aucoin@la.gov</a>	No
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Guests:		