

Summary of the NELAP Accreditation Council Meeting May 6, 2019

1. Introductions

The NELAP Accreditation Council (AC) met at 1:30 pm Eastern on Monday, May 6, 2019. Minutes from April 15, 2019, were approved. Those present are listed in Attachment 1.

2. Discussion of Method Codes with TNI Database Administrator

Dan Hickman requested to discuss WET Method Codes with all of the ABs offering accreditation for WET testing, and a similar concern about microbiology plus a separate request concerning radiological method codes.

PTPEC's WET FoPT subcommittee asked that Dan create method codes for every combination of method and analyte (organism) in the same way EPA does, instead of the current system which does give different method codes for each reportable endpoint (i.e., NOEC, LC50, etc.). Dan noted that by adding an additional column for analyte codes to the FoPT tables, it will be simple to use existing method and analyte codes to specify this information. The WET Expert Committee has four AB staff in its membership and the two of those who were participating in this call pointed out that the proposed new method codes are not consistent with the WET committee's efforts to increase data comparability for PT results by limiting the variability of methods used for PT studies. None of the AB representatives present supported this proposed creation of additional method codes, and no one was quite sure about how PTPEC's WET FoPT subcommittee could have arrived at this suggestion.

Dan also noted that there is an effort underway to create separate method codes for each for microbiological methods and the microbes being analyzed. Again, participants noted that there is already an analyte code for every possible microbiological analyte, so that adding a column for analyte will make this representation simple with the existing method and analyte codes.

Lastly, Dan has received a request from a non-NELAP AB to create unique method codes for all combinations of prep methods and radiological methods. This was not welcomed either, but deflected with the statement that LAMS needs to have one system that works for all, and the current system of having a method code for the prep method and one for the quantitation method is working for every other field of testing, and should work for radiological testing, as well.

Dan thanked the group for their input, and departed the call.

3. Agenda for Conference in Jacksonville

The NELAP AC meets for 90 minutes on Wednesday afternoon, August 7, after the break. Participants agreed that the agenda should be as follows:

Welcome and Introductions
Update on Evaluations
Implementation of the 2016 Standard
Discussion of Efforts to Improve Usefulness of PCB PT Results
Questions from the Audience (time permitting)

4. Recommendation for Renewal of Recognition for Texas

The Evaluation Team provided its recommendation to renew TX's status as a NELAP AB in early April but it was not addressed at the April meeting due to the presence of an invited guest (Maria Friedman, PTPEC Chair) for that call. Aaren presented the recommendation at this meeting, and Cathy moved, Kristin seconded that the recommendation be accepted and TCEQ's recognition as a NELAP AB be renewed. Eleven of the twelve ABs present on the call voted in favor, with KS noting that Paul had not received the email (a problem since fixed) and requesting to vote by email with the three absent ABs. As of May 11, the vote was completed with all ABs in favor of renewal except for TX which abstained from the vote.

5. Discussion of Draft Language for Analyte Request Application for PCB Revision

Cathy had circulated draft language to be used for a repeat request to PTPEC that the identification of PCBs in NPW and SCM FoPT tables be revised to be in the same manner as PCBs are currently done in the DW FoPT table, and that clarifying language be added to the footnote about PCBs to explain that failing to successfully identify and quantify whichever one of the seven named Aroclors was in the PT sample will be considered a failure for all of the named Aroclors, whether or not they were in the PT sample. This will solve the ongoing problem of labs that consistently fail Aroclor PTs but because they don't fail the same analyte twice in a row, they never lose accredited status. Participants noted that, for the few labs which are not accredited for all of the named Aroclors, ABs should have documented procedures for handling those exceptions.

There were no amendments to the language, and Michele agreed to submit it as a second attempt by NJ to resolve this longstanding concern.

6. Revisiting the Proposed Revision to Micro FoPT Table Regarding MPN Methods

At the March meeting, the Council declined to approve the revision to separate tube and well technologies for MPN methods. This led to the PTPEC Chair, Maria Friedman, requesting to present an explanation and justification for the proposed revision, which occurred at the April 15 meeting, but no motion was made at that time to approve the proposal.

After a brief discussion with consensus that the tube method should not be separated from the well methods simply because the tube method more often fails PT samples, Aaren called for a motion to either accept or reject the revised FoPT table. No one spoke, but at the end of the meeting, Bill asked to revisit the issue, and after another brief discussion, Bill moved and Kristin seconded that the revised table be rejected. All twelve ABs present voted in favor of the motion to reject, and three email votes were cast in favor, with the final vote received on May 11.

7. Five Year Reviews of NELAP SOPs

Three draft revised SOPs were presented at the March meeting, but not addressed for the April meeting, due to time constraints. Two of these were distributed again, the NELAP Voting SOP 3-101 and the NELAP Provisional Recognition SOP 3-108.

For the Voting SOP, participants were comfortable with the reworking of "two-thirds quorum" to be instead, the definition of a voting rule for matters of accreditation, Cathy moved and Celeste seconded that the revised Voting SOP 3-101 be accepted. As this was not a matter of accreditation, but rather general business, there was no roll call, and all present voted in

favor.

For the Provisional Recognition SOP 3-108, participants asked to retain the concept of “critical finding” and also to retain the original definitions of recognition as well as of primary and secondary accreditation bodies, rather than replacing those with the definitions in the TNI Glossary. Since the Glossary is a “living document”, several participants noted that for regulatory and enforcement purposes, they need a fixed definition and the one already in the Voting SOP is embedded in state practice even if not in actual law or regulations. A revised draft will be provided at the June meeting.

The NELAP Dispute Resolution SOP 3-104 will be addressed at the June meeting.

8. New Business

Cathy noted that the hotel rate for conference in Jacksonville exceeds the federal per diem, and wanted everyone to be aware of that before making reservations.

Aaren noted that PA is moving to the “most recent version” of all analytical methods in the near future.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will Monday, June 3, 2019, at 1:30 pm Eastern. The agenda and documents will be shared 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	Celeste Crowley T: 217-557-0274 F: 217-524-6169 E: celeste.crowley@illinois.gov	Yes
	Alternate: Dave Reed Dave.Reed@Illinois.gov	No
	For information purposes: John South John.South@illinois.gov	No
KS	Paul Harrison paul.harrison@ks.gov	Yes
	Alternate: N. Myron Gunsalus 785-291-3162 E: ngunsalus@ks.gov	No
LA DEQ	Kimberly Hamilton-Wims T: 225-219-3247 E: Kimberly.Hamilton-Wims@la.gov	No
	Alternate: Elizabeth West elizabeth.west@la.gov	No
LA DOH	Grant Aucoin Grant.aucoin@la.gov	Yes
	Alternate: Scott Miles Scott.Miles@la.gov	No
MN	Lynn Boysen E: lynn.boysen@state.mn.us	No
	Alternate: Stephanie Drier 651-201-5326 E: stephanie.drier@state.mn.us	No
NH	Bill Hall T: (603) 271-2998 F: (603) 271-5171 E: george.hall@des.nh.gov	Yes

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: Chris Armstrong (405) 702-1000 E: chris.armstrong@deq.ok.gov	No
OR	Alia Servin 503-693-4122 E: alia.d.servin@dhsosha.state.or.us	Yes
	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	Aaren Alger T: (717) 346-8212 F: (717) 346-8590 E: aaalger@pa.gov	Yes
	Alternate: Dana Marshall E: dmarsshall@pa.gov	No
TX	Ken Lancaster T: (512) 239-1990 E: Ken.Lancaster@tceq.texas.gov	No
	Alternate: Kristy Deaver T: (512) 239-6816 Kristy.deaver@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: 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	Yes
EPA Liaison	Donna Ringel T: 732-321-4383 E: Ringel.Donna@epa.gov	Yes
California	Christine Sotelo Christine.Sotelo@waterboards.ca.gov	No
Guests:	Dan Hickman, TNI Database Administrator Dan.hickman@nelac-institute.org	