

**Summary of the NELAP Accreditation Council Meeting
Environmental Measurement Symposium
Virtual Session August 9, 2021 1 pm Eastern**

1. Welcome and Introductions

Kristin welcomed everyone to the call and invited Council members to introduce themselves. Attendance is noted in Attachment 1.

2. Updates from NELAP ABs

The primary agenda item (see Attachment 2) was an opportunity for each of the NELAP AB representatives present to update participants about three items – current operational status from pandemic disruptions, current implementation status of the 2016 TNI EL Standard and expected implementation plans for the 2021 Method Update Rule (MUR). State responses to these items are displayed in the three separate tables below.

State	Current Operational Status of NELAP ABs Following Pandemic Disruptions
FL	Has returned to normal, in-office operations with most on-site assessments, but if Program Manager approves, more data review is being conducted off-site prior to the actual site visit.
IL	Returned to normal in-office April 1, 2021. Had on-site assessments in June and July. Looking at Covid-19 metrics for our assessment this month.
KS	Currently performing all assessments in person, but have started evaluating the current situation in KS to determine if remote or partially remote assessments are needed. We have sent data and recommendations onto our Department of Environment within KDHE and are awaiting their guidance on next steps.
LA DEQ	Returned to normal operations on May 10, 2021, but have now scaled back assessments to do the maximum possible off-site reviews. Remote assessments not allowed. If lab reports COVID-19 cases, assessors do not go on-site unless precautions are in place or quarantine period is over.
MN	Mostly back to normal as of July 31. Remote assessments are no longer allowed but staff are permitted to work remotely. Staff are not travelling (MN uses third-party assessors exclusively).
NH	Fully operational, but now performing a remote conference with labs on the day prior to the site visit.
NJ	Phased return to full in-office operations, current return date is planned to be September 7, but that will depend on state caseloads with delta variant surge. Has mostly returned to in-person site visits for assessments.
NY	Staff in Albany are in office 2 days/week, assessors based elsewhere normally work from home. In-state assessments are being performed on-site; out-of-state assessments are remote. As of September 7, will initiate pilot project having 50% of assessments remote.
OK	Working in office full time, and performing on-sites, but as “blended” assessments with much of the data review accomplished off-site/remotely.
OR	Most assessments now are on-site, although Oregon’s declaration of emergency has been extended until December 2021. Some “hybrid” assessments being done, and assessors are working hard to eliminate their backlog of assessments.
PA	Staff still working fully remote and doing only remote assessments, but program is fully operational and all lab assessments are current. No travel being approved except for emergencies. Anticipate permanent telework for staff, with perhaps two days/week in office and social distancing implemented.

TX	Now requires documents to be submitted up front for remote review, and conducts virtual opening and closing meetings with shorter on-site times. May need additional adaptations due to delta variant. Jody Koehler hired as new program manager and transition from Steve Gibson to her is underway but Steve will remain the primary contact until further notice.
UT	Fully operational. Performing on-site assessments, although running behind on scheduling.
VA	Performing only remote assessments.

Implementation Plans for 2016 TNI ELS Standard – 8/9/2021		
State	Process for Implementing the New Standard	Anticipated Implementation Date
FL	FL adopted the TNI 2016 Standards by regulation on September 26, 2018. Laboratories were granted a grace period until April 1, 2019, to implement the new standards.	Fully implemented on April 1, 2019
IL	Full implementation on January 31, 2020.	January 31, 2020
KS	Rulemaking underway, but slowly. Is allowing labs to upgrade now and is assessing to 2016 Standard even though 2003 NELAC standard is still the official version.	Expected to implement August 1, 2022
LA DEQ	Regulation updates delayed by pandemic, tropical storms and hurricanes.	Unknown
MN	Implementation by statute was accomplished early this year. Program office is updating files and documents now.	January 30, 2021
NH	Rulemaking is needed. Public meeting scheduled for mid-August, and implementation may occur in winter 2021.	Possibly winter 2021-22
NJ	Incorporated into regulation by reference.	January 30, 2020
NY	Labs are required to meet the 2016 Standard requirements, and the NY certification manual is updated, but the assessment checklist update is not yet complete.	2016 Standard is in place
OK	Hopes to begin rulemaking in fall 2021, is allowing labs to upgrade now.	Unknown
OR	Implemented 2016 Standard effective January 1, 2021. Plans rulemaking for fee increase effective March 2022 and is hiring assessors for three areas – environment, cannabis and psilocybin.	January 1, 2021
PA	Incorporated into regulation by reference, all labs are required to have the 2016 standard implemented by July 2020.	January 30, 2020
TX	Incorporated into regulation by reference. Implementation has gone well.	January 30, 2020
UT	Rulemaking complete, 2016 standard implemented.	June 11, 2021
VA	Is in latter stages of rule-making but AB has no control over timing of next steps.	Unknown

State	Implementation Plans for 2021 Method Update Rule
FL	AB awaits direction from the program office, FL DEP.
IL	2021 MUR, PFOS methods and 23 rd Edition of SM are all in our legislature awaiting approval, hopefully by October 2021.
KS	Has reached out to the Bureau of Water (enforcement arm within KDHE) to collaborate with them on a go live date. No date has been set yet, but we are expecting that January of 2022.
LA DEQ	Labs must comply with MUR by July 2022 or the next assessment, whichever comes first.
MN	Working with MN Pollution Control Agency to determine implementation and will notify labs of decision when renewal materials are sent in September 2021.
NH	Implementation will be based on lab requests for accreditation of updated methods. Has no directive from program office.
NJ	No firm plans yet, but under consideration.
NY	MUR and drinking water regulations will be implemented at the end of the year for an April 1, 2022, effective date.
OK	Discussions with OK DEQ program staff are in process.
OR	Per OR DEQ, the MUR methods will be phased in as routine assessments occur.
PA	Implementation is under discussion.
TX	Implementation decision is made by Water Quality Division, not yet available. Prior 2016 MUR was only partial implementation
UT	No firm plans yet, but under consideration.
VA	VA DEQ (program office) will determine when MUR is implemented.

After all of the AB representatives who were present provided their updates, Kristin noted that the evaluation process for AB recognition renewals is progressing and that the remote site visits are working out well. She also noted that the Virtual NELAP Basic Assessor Course will be presented later in August and that there is still room for additional participants in this course session.

3. Questions and Answers

One participant noted that the MUR implementation is state-specific, and asked several AB representatives explained their different procedures. Accreditations for updated methods can be accomplished prior to mandatory implementation dates in some states, according to lab needs, but most states do not have implementation dates established.

Another participant asked if information was available for the three states not present – IL, KS and NY. Lynn offered from memory that NY and IL have essentially implemented the 2016 Standard but that Kansas still must complete its rulemaking.

Kristin thanked everyone for their participation, and with no further questions, adjourned the meeting a little bit earlier than scheduled.

4. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the NELAP AC will be a special session on Monday, August 16 at 1:30 pm Eastern, to consider the veto vote on SIR 390. Justification for the veto vote and any other materials needed for this session will be sent prior to the meeting.

The next regularly scheduled teleconference meeting will be on Tuesday, September 7,

2021, at 1:30 pm Eastern. This is a rescheduled date due to the Labor Day holiday falling on Monday of that week. The 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	No
IL	Millie Rose T: 217-557-0220 E: mildred.rose@illinois.gov	No
	For information purposes: Dave Reed E: Dave.Reed@Illinois.gov	No
	For information purposes: John South E: john.south@illinois.gov	No
	For information purposes: Shirlene South E: shirlene.south@illinois.gov	No
KS	Carissa Robertson Carissa.Robertson@ks.gov (785) 291-3162	No
	Alternate: Paul Harrison paul.harrison@ks.gov (785) 296-1656	No
	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
	For information purposes: Daniel Vang Daniel.Vang@ks.gov	No
LA DEQ	Kimberly Hamilton-Wims T: 225-219-3247 E: Kimberly.Hamilton-Wims@la.gov	Yes
	Altérnate: Elizabeth West E: elizabeth.west@la.gov	No
MN	Lynn Boysen E: lynn.boysen@state.mn.us	Yes

	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	No
	Alternate: Brian Lamarsh Brian.Lamarsh@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	No
	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	No
OR	Travis Bartholomew T: 503-693-4122 E: travis.j.bartholomew@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	Annmarie 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 T: (512) 239-1316 E: Steve.Gibson@tceq.texas.gov	Yes
	Jody Koehler	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	Eric Graybill Graybill.eric@epa.gov	No
California	Christine Sotelo Christine.Sotelo@waterboards.ca.gov	No



Agenda

- Introductions
- State AB Status Updates
 - Operational status in re-opening from to pandemic
 - 2016 Standard implementation status
 - 2021 Method Update Rule implementation plans
- Discussion and Q&A
 - Virtual participants may ask questions or make statements – **Use Q&A – not “chat”**

