WHO IS TNI?

- A 501(c)3 non-profit organization.
- A member organization managed by a Board of Directors.
- A voluntary consensus standards development organization accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).
WHAT DO WE PROVIDE?

- Infrastructure for stakeholders
- Consensus building for establishing requirements for:
  - Organizations that accredit
  - Organizations that are accredited
  - Proficiency testing programs
- Recognition of organizations that operate accreditation programs
- Assistance to members and others
WHAT DO WE NOT DO?

- Accredit laboratories
- Resolve disputes between laboratories and their Accreditation Bodies
TNI STRUCTURE

Board of Directors

Staff

Administrative Committees
- Finance
- Nominating
- Policy
- Information Technology
- Conference Planning

Self-Governing Programs

Individual Members
TNI PROGRAMS

- Advocacy Program
- Consensus Standards Development Program
- National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP)
- National Environmental Field Activities Program (NEFAP)
- Proficiency Testing Program
- Technical Assistance (TAC) Program
- Stationary Source Audit Sample Program (SSAS)
TNI BOARDS

- We have a bunch!
  - Board of Directors
  - Program Boards
- May create more
- May come up with a different name for program boards
TNI BOARDS

Board of Directors
- Responsible for fiscal soundness and organizational risk
- Provides general direction and guidance
- Do not “manage” a program
- Approves all policies
- Decides what programs TNI should have

Program Boards
- Responsible for day-to-day management of a given program
- Develops policies and procedures for their program
- Work cooperatively with other programs
TNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Monitored progress of TNI programs
- Formed Consistency Improvement Task Force
- Adopted new Seals for NELAP and NEFAP
ADVOCACY PROGRAM
SUMMARY OF PROGRAM

- Promote a national program for the accreditation of environmental laboratories
  - Establish relationships with organizations that have an interest in accreditation issues.
  - Establish relationships with EPA program offices.
  - Assist with publication of the newsletter.
  - Provide outreach at national, regional and local meetings.
# Advocacy Annual Report

## 2009 Accomplishments
- Formed Small Laboratory Advocacy Group (SLAG)
- Presentations at >10 regional and national meetings
- Published 3 newsletters

## 2010 Plans
- Provide feedback to other TNI committees from survey comments
- Continue outreach at meetings
- Continue publication of newsletters
- Explore MOU with EPA
- Meet with EPA program offices
SMALL LABORATORY ADVOCACY GROUP

- Open to TNI members and non-members
- Len Schantz; City of Rochester
  - [lgs@cityofrochester.gov](mailto:lgs@cityofrochester.gov)
- Seeks input from small laboratories and provides advice to TNI
- Raises concerns of small laboratories with high visibility within TNI
CONSENSUS STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Expert committees develop standards for consistent with TNI’s mission, using a consensus process.

- Expert Committees
  - Accreditation Body
  - Field Activities
  - On-Site Assessment
  - Proficiency Testing
  - Quality Systems
  - Stationary Source Audit Sample
2009 Accomplishments

- Tentative Interim Amendments (TIAs) and editorial changes to laboratory standards
- Standards Interpretation Requests
- Guidance and other tools
- Finalized 3 SSAS standards

2010 Plans

- A few other TIAs (maybe)
- Begin process to take TIAs through consensus
- More guidance and related tools
LABORATORY ACCREDITATION SYSTEM PROGRAM
SUMMARY OF PROGRAM

- Develop a system for the accreditation of environmental laboratories
  - policies and procedures, interpretations, guidance documents, and any related tools used to implement NELAP.
2009 Accomplishments

- Thorough review of the TNI standards
- Standards Interpretation Requests
- Developed and recommended new Seals for NELAP and NEFAP

2010 Plans

- Review any new TIAs
- Standards Interpretation Requests
- Follow-up on TNI Standard Review Recommendations: Proposed Policy/SOP/Guidance Documents
STANDARDS INTERPRETATION REQUEST

- On-line process available on TNI website:
  - Home/Standards/Request for Interpretation
- 16 Interpretations posted
  - Home/Standards/Interpretation & Clarifications
- > 50 in Progress
- Not to be used in a dispute between a lab and an AB
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM (NELAP)
TNI develops consensus requirements (i.e., standards) that are voluntarily adopted by states agencies approved as accreditation bodies (ABs).

TNI’s NELAP Board oversees accreditation bodies to assure uniformity.

State grants accreditation, which is unconditionally recognized, by other participating ABs.
NELAP ANNUAL REPORT

2009 Accomplishments

- Adopted new TNI standards
- Evaluation and Approval of Accreditation Bodies
  - Virginia New AB!
- Standards Interpretation Requests
- Added EPA representative to board

2010 Plans

- Prepare to implement new standards
- Evaluate new AB applications
  - Minnesota
  - Oklahoma (tentative)
- SW-846 methods
- Mutual Recognition SOP
## ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NELAC</th>
<th>TNI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The 2003 NELAC Standard

- Uses ISO 17025 quality system approach,
- Adds specificity to improve clarity and help with consistency for environmental testing,
- Requires conformance to EPA mandated methods, but otherwise allows flexibility in meeting requirements,
- Represents best professional practice,
- Allows for multiple Accreditation Bodies to implement consistently,
- Appropriate level of proficiency testing, and
- Includes data integrity component missing from 17025.

NELAC 2003 is the best accreditation program for environmental laboratories currently in use.
The 2003 NELAC Standard

- Refers to an organization that no longer exists,
- Hard to find all the laboratory requirements,
- Written by chemists for chemists,
- Some language could be improved,
- Not a true consensus standard,
- Does not incorporate ISO 17011 for Accreditation Bodies, and
- Muddled and outdated version of ISO 17025.

- New TNI Standards correct these weaknesses
THE NEW TNI STANDARDS

- Removal of outdated *NELAC* language
- Incorporation of ISO 17011
- Faithful incorporation of current version of ISO 17025
- Volume/Modular approach simplifies understanding
- Improved clarity on Technical Requirements
- True consensus standard!!!
STATUS OF TNI STANDARDS

- All TNI Standards have been approved for adoption into NELAP.
- TNI Standards will replace the 2003 NELAC Standard on July 1, 2011.
- All laboratories must be in compliance with the requirements by July 1, 2011.
- Laboratories will be inspected on their normal 2-year cycle, and thus may not be assessed to the new standard until June 30, 2013.
PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTING LABORATORY STANDARDS

- Fall 2009  Begin to change state regulations;
- 2010  Training and outreach;
- 2010  Guidance and related tools;
- Late 2010  New Quality Manual template;
- Summer 2010  TIA’s for PT acceptance criteria
  - Micro, WET, radiochemistry, air
FINAL VERSION: November 2009

- Editorial changes
- Tentative Interim Amendments
- Copies automatically provided to previous buyers of ISO version
Very few new requirements!
2010 WORKSHOPS

Chicago 29, 2010
SUMMARY

- Major reorganization to simplify understanding
- Very few new requirements
- 18 months to prepare
- Special workshop on Friday
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD ACTIVITIES PROGRAM (NEFAP)
SUMMARY OF PROGRAM

- Consensus standards that are voluntarily adopted by states agencies or third parties approved as accreditation bodies (ABs).
- TNI’s NEFAP Board oversees accreditation bodies to assure uniformity.
- AB grants accreditation, which is unconditionally recognized, by other participating ABs.
- Program applies to Field Sampling and Measurement Organizations (FSMOs)
FIELD SAMPLING & MEASUREMENT ORGANIZATION (FSMO)

- Organization engaged in:
  - environmental sampling for laboratory analysis and/or
  - field measurement outside of an enclosed structure which meets the requirements of fixed or mobile laboratory.
NEFAP ANNUAL REPORT

2009 Accomplishments
- Develop plan for program
- Formed NEFAP Board
- Began efforts in two key areas:
  - Lead-based paint
  - Stack testing

2010 Plans
- Revise TNI Bylaws to accommodate NEFAP
- Build AB recognition process
- Review/Develop Policies & Procedures to assure consistent implementation
- Implement NEFAP
THE FSMO STANDARDS

Adopted May 2007

**Volume 1:** General Requirements for Field Sampling and Measurement Organizations (FSMO-V1-2008)

**Volume 2:** General Requirements for Accreditation Bodies Accrediting Field Sampling and Measurement Organizations (FSMO-V2-2008)
SCOPE OF ACCREDITATION

- **Field Sampling**
  - Accreditation by Media
  - Specific techniques defined by SOPs and Practices

- **Field Measurement**
  - Accreditation by Technology
  - Specific techniques defined by SOPs and Practices
PROFICIENCY TESTING PROGRAM
PTP ANNUAL REPORT

2009 Accomplishments

- Established FoPT for WET
- Reassessment of A2LA
- Review A2LA Scope of Work
- Adopted TNI Vol 3 and 4.
- Review of A2LA SSAS Documents: General Requirements and SSAS audit checklist.
- Establish NPW FoPT LL Mercury and LL Total Residual Chlorine

2010 Plans

- Revise FoPTs for Drinking Water, Non-Potable Water and Solids
- Establish FoPT for Air and Emissions
- Remove experimental analytes
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Provide tools, training, and other resources to enable stakeholders to efficiently participate, adopt, implement and comply with the TNI standards.

- Tools and templates
- Training
- Assessment Forums
- Mentoring Sessions
TAC ANNUAL REPORT

2009 Accomplishments

- 2 Assessment Forums
- 3 Mentoring Sessions
- 9 Training Courses
- Standard Interpretation Requests

2010 Plans

- 2 Assessment Forums
- 2-3 Mentoring Sessions
- 2-4 Training Courses
- 12 + Workshops
- Guidance and Tools
  - LOD/LOQ
  - Quality Manual
STATIONARY SOURCE AUDIT
SAMPLE PROGRAM (SSAS)
SUMMARY OF PROGRAM

- Develop standards for manufacture and analysis of audit samples for source emission testing.
- Used to evaluate whether a stack test or laboratory can produce results within specified criteria.
- Implement a program with these standards as the basis.
2009 Accomplishments

- Adopted 3 consensus standards
- Began efforts on a SSAS database
- Established analytes and acceptance criteria

2010 Plans

- Implement SSAS program
- Implement SSAS database
- Develop guidance
ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

- Finance
- Information Technology
- Nominating
- Policy
- Conference Planning
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
SUMMARY OF PROGRAM

- Develop and maintain the TNI website
- Develop and maintain TNI databases
  - Analyte codes, Method codes, etc.
- Develop and maintain the TNI Laboratory Accreditation Management System (LAMS)
2009 Accomplishments

- Began work on LAMS
- Continued improvements to website
  - Standard Interpretation Requests
  - SLAG Bulletin Board
  - Document listing
- Merged National Database and Website Committees

2010 Plans

- Implement LAMS
- Continue to improve website
LAMS

- **Primary Purpose**
  - Assist ABs with secondary accreditation

- **Secondary Purposes**
  - Allows labs to verify information about their lab
  - Allow the public to find labs
  - Allow vendors to find labs
SUMMARY OF PROGRAM

- Develop policies and procedures that affect all of TNI
- Review policies and procedures from other programs
POLICY ANNUAL REPORT

2009 Accomplishments
- Reviewed SOPs from NELAP and PT Boards
- Began work on new SOPs for guidance documents and dispute resolution

2010 Plans
- SOP for use of guidance documents
- SOP for dispute resolution
- Bylaw revisions to accommodate NEFAP and SSAS
- New IRS rules for non-profits
CONFERENCE PLANNING
SUMMARY OF PROGRAM

- Put on two conferences for TNI each year
  - Winter Conference
    - Forum on Laboratory Accreditation
  - Summer Conference
    - Environmental Measurement Symposium
2010 ENVIRONMENTAL MEASUREMENT SYMPOSIUM

- Forum on Laboratory Accreditation
- National Environmental Monitoring Conference

- August 9-13, 2010
- Washington, DC
- [www.nemc.us](http://www.nemc.us)
FUTURE MEETINGS

Winter Meeting
- Savannah, GA
  - February 4-7, 2011

Summer Meeting
- Seattle, WA
  - July 18-22, 2011
- Washington, DC
  - August 5-9, 2012
- San Antonio, TX
  - August 6-10, 2013
CHICAGO FORUM

- Implementation of the Laboratory Standards
- TNI committee and board meetings
- Mentoring and training
- Networking
MENTORING AND TRAINING

- Assessment Forum
- Workshop on new TNI Standards
- Special mentoring session on LOD and LOQ
- Training course
  - ICP and ICPMS
COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- All are fully open to all attendees
- Working session
- Active participation of attendees encouraged
GROUND RULES FOR PARTICIPATION

- Wait to be recognized
- State your name and affiliation
- Speak slowly and clearly
- Be considerate of others
- Turn cell phone off
THE PEDWAY

- Access to fast food, shops, Marshall Fields, etc without going outside.
SUMMARY

- TNI has had a terrific 2009 and is planning continued growth for 2010
- We invite you to actively participate in our activities
- Have a great time in Chicago