



# Update on the Activities of The NELAC Institute (TNI)

January 27, 2014





# Reports on TNI Programs

- Consensus Standards Development Program (CSDP)
- National Environmental Field Activities Program (NEFAP)
- National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP)
- Proficiency Testing Program (PTP)
- General and Administrative





# CONSENSUS STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The purpose of the CSDP is to develop consensus standards using the following criteria:

- Balance of interest
- Openness
- Due process
- Consensus
- Appeals process





# Standards Development Process

- Expert Committee develops a Working Draft Standard (WDS)
  - WDS presented to membership for comment
- Committee redrafts Standard and publishes Voting Draft Standard (VDS)
  - VDS presented to membership for vote
- Committee addresses comments from Vote and publishes an Interim Standard (IS) and Response to Comments
  - IS provided to stakeholder groups for review
- Standard approved



# CSDP Membership

- The CSDExC consists of the chair of every Expert Committee
  - Chemistry
  - Field Activities
  - Laboratory Accreditation Body
  - Laboratory Quality Systems
  - Laboratory Proficiency Testing
  - Microbiology
  - Radiochemistry
  - Stationary Source Audit Sample
- The CSDExC also has 3 members-at-large





# CSDP Executive Committee

## □ Accomplishments

- Revision of SOP 2-100 (Procedures Governing Standards Development).
- Webinars to inform stakeholders of standards development activity.
- Standards Review Council
- Guidance document for development and maintenance of standards





# Consensus Standard Development Executive Committee

## □ Plans

- ANSI audit
- Formation of WET Expert Committee
- Formalize standards tracking procedures





# Quality Systems Expert Committee

## □ Accomplishments

- Reviewing small lab handbook for consistency with the QS standard
- Reviewing Quality manual Template for consistency with the QS standard

## □ Plans

- Create a "Parking Lot" document to serve as a placeholder for issues (e.g., potential standard revisions) that cannot be changed at that time.





# Proficiency Testing Expert Committee

## □ Accomplishments

- Modified WDS for V1M1 and V2M2 **almost** complete
- V3 WDS posted for comment
  - Webinar on May 6
- Draft V4 WDS in development
- Present all at the Summer meeting
  - V1M1 and V2M2 Modified WDS; V3 and V4 WDS





# Accreditation Body Expert Committee

## □ Accomplishments

- Prepared a proposal for 3<sup>rd</sup> party assessors
- List of 3<sup>rd</sup> party assessors on the website
- Worked on a generic application form for lab accreditation
- Revised compliance checklist for AB evaluations

## □ Plans

- Complete the generic application form





# Stationary Source Audit Sample Expert Committee

## □ Accomplishments

- Stationary Source Audit Program implemented by EPA in June 2013 with 2 audit sample providers
- Preliminary draft of revised standard “General Requirements for SSAS Providers”

## □ Plans

- Complete revised standard and present as a WDS





# Chemistry Expert Committee

## □ Accomplishments

- VDS for Calibration (V1M4) passed. Response to Comments document published.
- Modified the EPA MDL procedure (App. B to Part 136); published on the website, and presented to EPA

## □ Plans

- Finalize Calibration Interim Standard
- Start work on detection and quantitation WDS, incorporating the modified MDL procedure





# Microbiology Expert Committee

## □ Accomplishments

- Reviewed V1M5 in preparation for a WDS
- Reviewed small lab handbook for consistency with V1M5

## □ Plans

- Prepare WDS for V1M5 to incorporate Giardia and Cryptosporidium





# Radiochemistry Expert Committee

## □ **Accomplishments**

- Reviewed V1M6 in preparation for a WDS
- Hosted a webinar to receive input on the proposed WDS

## □ **Plans**

- Prepare a WDS for V1M6





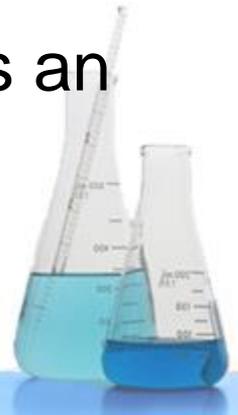
# Field Activities Expert Committee

## □ Accomplishments

- Posted response to comments document and modifications to the V1 and V2 VDS
- Presented Interim Standard for input
- Discussed mobile lab issues
- Considered FSMO tools (including QM guidance document)

## □ Plans

- Present the standard to ANSI for approval as an American National Standard







# NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD ACTIVITIES PROGRAM (NEFAP)

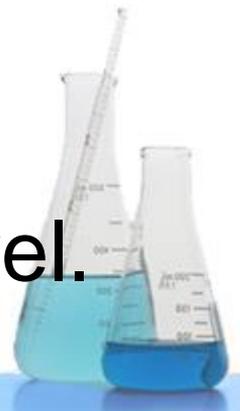
The purpose of the National Environmental Field Activities Program is to establish and implement a program for the accreditation of field sampling and measurement organizations.





# NEFAP Executive Committee

The mission of the NEFAP Executive Committee is to ensure the implementation of a national program for FSMO accreditation that is consistent with the TNI FSMO Standard requirements. The Executive Committee will support the field accreditation program with appropriate guidance, procedures, and policies to facilitate implementation of these accreditation standards on a national level.



# NEFAP EC Membership

- 6 FSMO
- 5 ABs
- 5 Other
- 3 Associate Members





# Accreditation Bodies Accepting Applications!!

- American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

**[WWW.A2LA.ORG](http://WWW.A2LA.ORG)**

- ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board/ACLASS

**[WWW.ANAB-ACLASS.ORG](http://WWW.ANAB-ACLASS.ORG)**

- Laboratory Accreditation Bureau

**[WWW.L-A-B..COM](http://WWW.L-A-B..COM)**

- Perry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation

**[WWW.PJLABS.COM](http://WWW.PJLABS.COM)**





# Sampling & Measurement Accreditation

- **Applicant Defines Scope Of Accreditation**
  - SOP's provided for Sampling/Measurement Technologies
  - Specific techniques defined by SOP's and practices
- **Sampling Accreditation**
  - Accreditation by media - broad category accreditation
  - Generic media requirements
- **Measurement Accreditation**
  - Technology driven accreditation
  - Method SOPs by specified technology - drive accreditation





# EPA Policy

## ***POLICY TO ASSURE THE COMPETENCY OF ORGANIZATIONS GENERATING ENVIRONMENTAL MEASUREMENT DATA UNDER AGENCY-FUNDED ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS***

- *This Policy is effective for 2 years from December 12, 2012. The Policy shall be reviewed at the end of 2 years and will either be reissued without revision, reissued with revisions or rescinded.*

**[http://www.epa.gov/fem/lab\\_comp.htm](http://www.epa.gov/fem/lab_comp.htm)**



# Current Status

Three FSMOs have NEFAP Accreditation

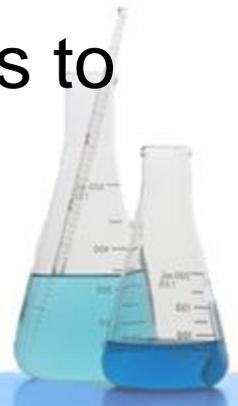
- ❑ Full Range in Scope of Accreditations
- ❑ Groundwater and Drinking Water Sampling
- ❑ Membrane Interface Probe - Groundwater
- ❑ Waterloo Profiling - Groundwater
- ❑ Wet chemistry – Water Quality Parameters
- ❑ Air: Passive & Ambient Sampling and Analysis





# NEFAP Plans - 2014

- Review and revise (as needed) all NEFAP SOPs.
- Complete Technical Evaluations for NEFAP ABs to attain full accreditation status.
- Work with the Advocacy Committee and Field Activities Expert Committee to make the environmental community aware of NEFAP.
- Develop and implement procedures to continually evaluate and establish measures to target opportunities for improvement.





# Working Toward Government Acceptance

Louisiana is in the process of submitting for public comment changes in their accreditation code. The proposed changes in Code Title 33 Part 1 Section 4501.D include language which will encourage the use of other accreditation programs. After adoption of the change to this Louisiana Code, the NEFAP program will be reviewed for equivalency and if accepted, it may be used for the basis of secondary accreditation granted by the LELAP accreditation program.







# NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM (NELAP)

- 14 active Accreditation Bodies in 13 states
- Accredits nearly 1700 laboratories
  - US states and territories
  - Canadian provinces
  - US military lab in South Korea

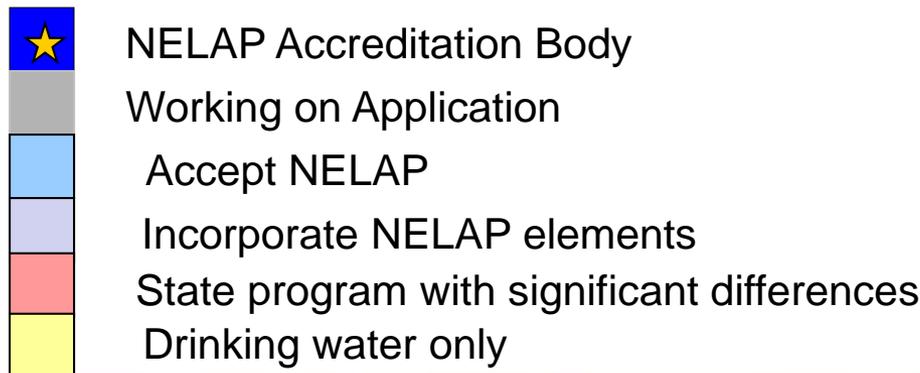
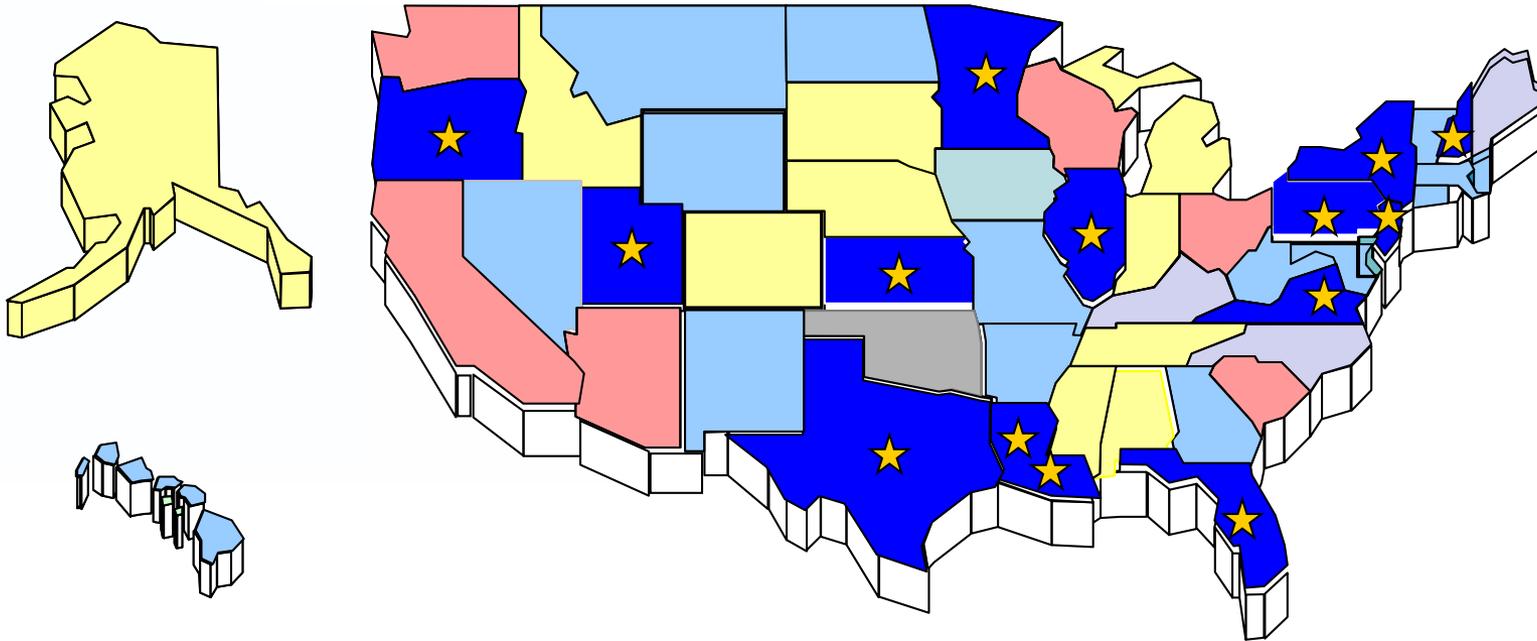


# NELAP

- California withdrew from NELAP on January 31, 2014
- CA to continue in-state ELAP
- NELAP AC worked with CA's 33 NELAP labs to facilitate transition to another primary ABs
- CA to honor secondary accreditations until lab's certificate expires



# The National Program Today





# NELAP Accomplishments - 2013

- Ending 2011-13 evaluations; 2014-16 cycle underway
- Assessor calls – best practices, 3/year
- With LAS EC, greatly reduced SIR backlog
  - 197 of 243 SIRs now closed; 19 awaiting vote completion
- Worked w/ EPA about crypto accreditation by states
- Upgraded SOPs, added policies
  - SIR Management SOP, NELAP Evaluation SOP
- Continued training
  - Assessment Forum, Mentor Sessions, Assessor calls





# NELAP Plans - 2014

- Continue to implement 2009 TNI standard
- Monitor new standard modules in development
- Upgrade standards review and adoption SOPs
- Continue renewal evaluations for ABs
  - 4 new evaluations initiated
- Continue implementing all functions of national database of accredited laboratories (LAMS)
- Sustain SIR progress and new timeline.
- Supplement SIRs with FAQs for non-SIR questions







# PT PROGRAM (PTP)

To establish and maintain a national PT program to support TNI's National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program, and participate in other activities pertaining to proficiency testing.





# PT Program

- Recognize organizations to be PT Provider Accreditors
- Establish Fields of Proficiency Testing
  - Used by NELAP
  - Used by other states
  - Used by DMRQA





# PT Program

- Proficiency Testing Provider Accreditors
  - A2LA- On-site assessment completed late 2012
    - Advanced Analytical Solutions
    - ERA
    - New York State DOH
    - Phenova
  - ACLASS- Onsite assessments completed early 2013
    - Absolute Standards
    - NSI
    - Sigma Aldrich RTC





# Fields of Proficiency Testing Tables

- NELAP FoPT Tables
  - Drinking Water
    - Chemistry and Microbiology
    - Radiochemistry
  - Non-Potable Water
    - Chemistry and Microbiology
    - Whole Effluent Toxicity
  - Solid and Chemical Materials





# Fields of Proficiency Testing Tables

- Non-NELAP FoPT Tables
  - Lead Field Testing
  - Protozoa for Drinking Water
  
- Will be posted on the TNI website, clearly stating they are not for use in the NELAP Program





# PTP Accomplishments - 2013

- Completed update of three SOPs
  - Complaint resolution
  - FoPT Table Management
- Received first application for addition of FoPTs to the NPW Table
- Posted a new NPW FoPT Table and made one revision
- Began data review for update of the Solid and Chemical and Materials FoPT Table





# PTP Plans - 2014

- Continue update of the WET table
- Update FoPT Tables to include “TNI/NELAP” and the PT Program Logo
- Subcommittee work to add technologies, where not indicated, and CAS numbers to all FoPT Tables
- Continue SOP updates
  - FoPT Acceptance Criteria





# ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT

- Board of Directors
  - Advocacy
  - Conference Planning
  - Finance
  - Information Technology
  - Nominating
  - Policy

Educational  
Delivery  
System





# Conference Planning

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



# Future Meetings

## Summer Meeting

- ❑ Washington, DC
  - August 4-8, 2014
- ❑ Chicago, IL
  - August 2015
- ❑ Orange County, CA
  - August 2016

## Winter Meeting

- ❑ Crystal City, VA
  - February 2-5, 2015



- ❑ 2016???





# Summer Meeting

- In conjunction with National Environmental Monitoring Conference
- August 4-8
- Washington, DC
- [www.nemc.us](http://www.nemc.us)

Registration  
opened 5/6/14

NEMC





# NEMC Technical Sessions

- 21 Sessions and 141 Presentations
  - Academic Research Topics
  - Advanced Topics in Organics Analyses
  - Advances in Sample Preparation and Clean-up
  - Air Methods / Monitoring
  - Best Laboratory Practices for Reference Materials
  - Changing the Paradigm for Water Pollution Monitoring
  - Collaborative Efforts to Improve Environmental Monitoring





# NEMC Continued

- Current Topics in Microbiology
- Data Management
- DOD LCS Study
- Field Measurements, Sensors, and In-Situ Monitoring
- HPLC in Environmental Monitoring
- Laboratory Accreditation
- LIMS Implementation
- Metals and Metals Speciation Analyses
- Operational and Advocacy Issues
- Topics in Drinking Water
- Topics in Shale Gas Exploration and Production





# Information Technology

- 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)



# IT Activities

## Accomplishments

- Development Plan for a Generic Laboratory Application
- Added EPA approval columns to Methods database
- Methods Compendium Database (Beta)
- Continued improvements to website

## Plans

- Continue to implement LAMS
- Continue to improve website



# Policy Activities

## Accomplishments

- Reviewed SOPs from other TNI programs
- Bylaw revisions
- New policies on ethics and complaints
- Code of Conduct

## Plans

- Continue to review policies and SOPs





# Educational Delivery System

- EDS page on TNI website
  - Educational opportunities
  - Application to provide training
- Training developed by TNI and others
  - “Live” training courses
  - Webinars
  - Webcasts
  - Regional events
- 13 Training Courses with >600 attendees in 2013





# TNI and WEAT Conference

- August 27-28, Allen, TX
- Day 1
  - Workshop on Lab Audits
- Day 2
  - Presentations on legal defensibility, endocrine disruptors, nanoparticles, fracking, using TOC for BOD, etc.
  - New MDL Procedure





# TNI Board of Directors

- Monitor activities of all programs and committees
- Review and approve policies and SOPs
- Organizational and fiduciary leadership
- Form ad-hoc groups for special topics
  - Non-Governmental Accreditation Body (NGAB) Working Group





# 2013 Significant Board Actions

- **Bylaw Revisions**
  - Ex-Officio Directors may now vote
  - Annual Meeting
  - Other minor changes
- **Self Sufficiency**
  - Increases in fees for membership, publications and program fees
- **Letter to EPA's FEM**
  - Update on progress and activities





# NGAB Working Group

- Develop SOPs to be used by TNI to approve NGABs to grant environmental laboratory accreditations in conformance with the TNI standards, and to assure that the NGAB is capable of managing an accreditation program in a consistent, uniform manner.
  - Develop recommendations for the evaluation and recognition process for NGABs
  - Determine what SOPs and policies are necessary for NGAB program (complaints, etc)
  - Develop draft SOPs and policies





# Advocacy Activities

## Recent Accomplishments

- ❑ Presentations at >10 regional and national meetings
- ❑ Published newsletters
- ❑ Developed Position Statement on Small Laboratory Quality Systems

## Plans

- ❑ Workshop on National Accreditation
- ❑ Develop more Position Statements
- ❑ Routine Business
  - Continue outreach to stakeholders
  - Continue publication of newsletters





# SUMMARY

- TNI has had a terrific 2013 and is planning continued growth for 2014
- We invite you to actively participate in our activities
- Join TNI – Now over 850 active members!
- Join a TNI committee – Nothing happens without our volunteers!





# Contact TNI

Jerry Parr, Executive Director

- [www.nelac-institute.org](http://www.nelac-institute.org)
- [jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org](mailto:jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org)
- 817-598-1624



©EnchantedLearning.com

