



Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Meeting Minutes: June 8th, 2017

Note: Information communicated in these minutes is not to be used as official New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection policy or as an official Department notification. Contact NJDEP officials directly for official information regarding matters communicated in these minutes.

Administrative Business:

The meeting was called to order at 9:30am by the ELAC Chair, Dorothy Love (Eurofins). Meeting minutes were taken by Nick Straccione (EMSL Analytical, Inc.), ELAC secretary.

The May 2017 ELAC Meeting Minutes were approved with a motion by Charles Anzolut (Agra) and seconded by Eileen Synder (Alpha).

Environmental Laboratory Certification Program (ELCP): Deb Waller (NJDEP-OQA) provided an update.

Renewals are scheduled to be sent June 12th. It is the responsibility of the laboratory to review the entire ACPL for accuracy. Any incorrect statuses or missing compounds found must be relayed to Rachel Ellis by June 30th or laboratories will have to go through the modification process for correction. If any labs do not pay the renewal fee by June 30th then the certification will be pulled and the lab will have to go through the initial certification process.

The OQA is in the process of developing method specific checklists to use as a tool prepare for audits or use as a guide for internal audits. The first checklists being worked on are the immediate test parameters. As they are completed and approved they will be made available.

Questions on the certification program should be directed to Rachel Ellis at rachel.ellis@dep.nj.gov.

Proficiency Test (PT) Program: Deb Waller (NJDEP OQA) provided an update.

The NPW letters of intent to suspend are delayed and will be sent by July 1st. Any makeups are to be analyzed after September 1st, due to NJ by November.

The following matrices due dates for PT's to NJDEP OQA are: SCM makeup June 23rd, DW makeup due September 15th, Air due October 6th.

In November 2017 a new FoPT drinking water table will be effective for NELAP labs.

Questions on the proficiency testing program should be directed to Rachel Ellis at rachel.ellis@dep.nj.gov.

The NELAC Institute (TNI): Deb Waller (NJDEP OQA) provided an update.

The next meeting will be held in August in Washington D.C and registration is now open.

The microbiology module 5 has been revised and includes contributions from the SLAG group.

Check the TNI website for additional information <http://www.nelac-institute.org/>.

Division of Water Supply/Safe Drinking Water: Linda Bonnette (NJDEP BSDW). No update

The BSDW is drafting the QAPP for the Department of Child and Family Services (DCF) Lead and Copper sampling program. When all DCF sampling information is completed and approved by management the NJDEP water supply website will have a link to the DCF website where the information will be posted.

The federal Safe Drinking Water regulations require that a public water system must collect a confirmation sample within 24 hours of notification of a routine nitrate result equal to or greater than 10.5 ppm (nitrate MCL is 10 ppm). The NJDEP water supply program is instituting a new policy whereby the public water system must post a precautionary Tier 1 Public Notice indicating the confirmation sample result is pending if the result for the confirmation sample is not reported to the NDJEP within 72 hours of its

collection. However, the CEHAs may require the Tier 1 Public Notice even if the results are going to be available within the 72 hours, so it is important for the public water system to consult with their county. A preliminary result obtained from the laboratory to meet the 72 hour timeframe is acceptable. The laboratory may provide this information verbally to the public water system and will not require that the result be reported through E2 within that 72 hour timeframe. According to the NJ OQA regulations, if the nitrate result exceeds the MCL of 10 ppm, the laboratory must also call the NJDEP.

The laboratories mentioned that it would be helpful if the public water system notifies the laboratory that the sample is a confirmation nitrate so they know that a result is needed by the water system within 72 hours of collection. This information should be indicated on the chain of custody.

NJ currently only allows ECLS R-GA Rev. 8 (Also known as the 48 Hour Gross Alpha method for compliance for the federal SDW regulations and the NJ Private Well Testing Act. The federal SDW regulations 40 CFR 141.25(c) require that the gross alpha achieve a detection limit (DL) (as defined in that section) of less than 3 pCi/L. It has been recently discovered that there have been cases where the gross alpha results have been submitted with DLs higher than 3 pCi/L. One contributing factor for exceeding the DL are high dissolved solids. BSDW has been recently reviewing gross alpha that has been received through E2. At the present time the E2 Quick Reference Guide indicates that the submission of the gross alpha DL is optional. This will be changed to a mandatory field for E2 submission of gross alpha results. In the meantime, laboratories that subcontract the gross alpha analyses were asked to review the laboratory reports to ensure that the DL of less than 3 pCi/L was met. If not, please notify Linda Bonnette at linda.bonnette@dep.nj.gov. It may be possible that the water system with the high dissolved solids would benefit by allowing them to use a co-precipitation method for the analysis of gross alpha. This allowance must come from the NJDEP and will only be granted on a case by case basis until a modification of the present 48 Hour Gross alpha method (which will include the ability to run a co-precipitation method) is completed, reviewed and approved by EPA for use in NJ.

A new law went into effect which allows the Board of Education to accept testing of lead drinking water results in schools done back to January 2016 if it complies with the requirements. This enables schools to be reimbursed during that time frame.

Questions on the Drinking Water Program may be emailed to Linda Bonnette (NJDEP-BSDW) at: linda.bonnette@dep.nj.gov

Site Remediation & Waste Management Program (SRWMP): Greg Toffoli (NJDEP-SRWMP)

No update, Questions on the SRWMP program may be emailed to Greg Toffoli (NJDEP-SRWMP) at greg.toffoli@dep.nj.gov.

New Business:

Deb Waller, NJDEP OQA, is on the National ELAB committee and informed the group of the typographical error in Method 6010D. The method states that the ICV needs to be analyzed each run, but it is only required after the Initial Calibration. Labs should not be cited for this and please notify NJDEP OQA if a finding is received for this specific instance.

Deb Waller, gave an update on the Cyanide task force. Drinking water samples should be preserved. The federal MCL of 200ug/L has not been lowered to 100. A letter has been drafted to EPA to request that labs do not report lower than 100ug/L to avoid false positives.

The regulations to report fecal coliform have not changed for fresh water bathing or wastewater. Fecal coliform is still to be reported for the analysis of coliform in freshwater bathing and wastewater.

Recently the Department of Education held a meeting on May 3rd to discuss lead testing. It would be helpful to reach out to them to inform them of ELAC and create open communication.

EDD Subcommittee Ken Liao and Roger Page (NJDEP-SRWMP-BIS).

No updates, continued background programming being done.

Questions and comments may be directed to Ken Liao (NJDEP-SRWMP-BIS) at ken.liaoi@dep.nj.gov

Communications / OQA Website:

ELAC Chair, Dorothy Love (Eurofins) reported that the NJDEP-OQA website was up to date with the approved minutes, ELAC bylaws, and 2017 calendar.

Meeting Schedule: The Meeting was adjourned with a motion by Rose Koplin (Accred. Analytical) and seconded by Eileen Synder (Alpha). The next scheduled ELAC Meeting will be held on **Thursday, July 13th, 2017 at 9:30AM**, at NJDEP, 401 East State Street, in **5th Floor Conference Room** in Trenton, New Jersey. **Those planning to attend must email the ELAC Secretary, Nick Straccione at: nstraccione@emsl.com by Friday, July 7th, 2017.**

Note: *All visitors must show one form of photo identification, or two non-photo IDs, when signing in at the NJDEP main lobby in the Trenton, New Jersey complex (401, 501, 440 and 428 E. State Street buildings). All visitors should be prepared to verify their identification. **Visitors must be escorted at all times by a NJDEP representative when in the building.***