



Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Meeting Minutes: December 8, 2011

Editorial 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 9:35 a.m. Jeri Rossi (IAL) chaired the meeting. The October Minutes were approved with the motion made by Les Glessner (LSA) and seconded by Steve Reduker (IAL).

Subcommittee Reports

Laboratory Certification Program:

No update

PT Program:

Rachel Ellis (NJDEP-OQA) reported that the invoices for the Drinking Water PTs are out. Samples for January PTs will be shipped on January 9th. Air PTs will be shipped on Jan. 30th. Invoices for wastewater PTs will be sent next week. For the March PT Study, the NELAC laboratories should buy PT samples on their own for the following parameters: Color, and aqueous DRO and GRO. The settleable solids will be included with the Minerals sample. Additions will be made soon to the contract to include the new parameters but during the transition it is the NELAC laboratories' responsibility to make sure they maintain PTs for all parameters on the FoPT. Wastewater facilities will be exempt from reporting results for the DMR QA Study effective 2012. OQA is taking over the function of evaluating the sample results from EPA. A letter will be coming soon on this regard.

The NELAC Institute (TNI)

Dr. Mike Miller (Miller Chemist) reported that TNI is working on the accreditation of Field Sampling and Measurement Organizations (FSMO). The current focus of TNI is to revise the current TNI FSMO and NELAP Standard. TNI is asking the FSMO and lab community for comments. There is a push for third party NELAP Accreditation Bodies (ABs). State ABs for FSMOs are not available right now. Only 3rd party ABs are available to accredit FSMOs. EPA has privatized the oversight of the production of stack-testing Audit Samples. TNI has written the standards of the accreditation of audit sample providers and for the providers and will oversee the program.

Rachel Ellis (NJDEP/OQA) stated that the next TNI's annual conference (Laboratory Forum on Accreditation) is being held from Jan 30th to Feb 2, 2012 in Sarasota, FL.

Sludge (Biosolids) Subcommittee: No update

Communications and (OQA) Website: Oommen Kappil (QC Labs) reported that the latest Minutes have been posted on the web site.

Marty Hackman (NJDEP/OQA) reported that the listserv created by OQA to disseminate information on lab accreditation is functioning. Also, in order to reach OQA, you could send an email to oga@dep.state.nj.us. Emails sent to this id will reach Joe Aiello, OQA Chief. He will disperse the email to the appropriate staff for action.

Division Of Water Supply/Safe Drinking Water:

Linda Bonnette (BSDW/NJDEP) stated that water supply data must be submitted on-time or NJDEP will issue violations and enforcement will be implemented beginning January 1, 2012. A flier detailing the requirements was distributed to the attendees. (A copy is attached for reference).

Site Remediation:

Greg Toffoli (NJDEP/SRP) reported that SRP is reviewing all comments it received regarding the revised Tech Rules. SRP is on track to adopt the rules in May 2012. The Program is in a transformation stage. Several Case Managers and Site Managers have been reassigned to different tasks. More projects are coming under LSRPs. Some bureaus will cease to exist as of May 2012. Greg reminded everyone that SRP is looking into the issue of laboratories having difficulty with meeting certain standards, particularly the Impact to Ground Water numbers. This includes Volatiles and Pesticides. What are the problem compounds? What are the reasons for the problems? How frequently do the problems arise? What are your reporting limits and what can you see down to for Total EPH, soils and water? Laboratories are encouraged to send information on problem compounds to Oommen Kappil (email: okappil@qclaboratories.com) so that this information can be compiled and forwarded to Greg Toffoli.

Greg stated that the proposed full data deliverables include one electronic copy and one paper copy. Vapor intrusion and potable water projects require full deliverables. One of the reasons behind this is the cost of validating data. Greg stated that it actually can take 1.5 times more time to validate an electronic copy compared to a hard copy package.

Paul Simms (Alpha) asked if electronic copy would be acceptable in the future for reduced deliverables. Greg replied that the proposed rule addresses that and should that section of the proposal remain, electronic copies for reduced deliverables will be acceptable beginning May 2012. Greg asked if sending a hard copy is burdensome for the laboratories.

Many people pointed out the additional cost of printing and shipping.

Phil Worby (Accutest) asked for whom the data deliverable checklist is meant. Greg stated that it is meant to be completed by the LSRPs, not laboratories. Greg reminded all that a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) needs to be established prior to the beginning of a project. The forms/checklist may be used to prescreen the data to decide if a full validation is required. Also, the intent is the forms should be used by the LSRPs to aid in usability decisions. Usability issues are not lab concerns. Phil Worby asked if SRP could specify that this form should be filled out by LSRPs. Another request was for specifying the order of data deliverables. Greg responded that all comments will be considered, but SRP has been asked not to be prescriptive. Jeri Rossi (IAL) asked if QAPPs will have specific components. Greg replied that a guidance document will be available by May 2012. LSRPs should specify data quality objectives in the QAPP, prior to the beginning of the project.

Tom Cady (APL) inquired about any progress on the EDD group formed a while back. Greg responded that there is nothing to report. Mike Miller (Miller Chemist) asked about using the federal QAPP. Greg replied that the federal QAPPs are quite different in that they are very lengthy, and the associated programs are different. Eileen Snyder (CAS/ALS) asked if web-based QAPP is possible. Greg responded that any guidance is only recommendation, and that LSRPs can modify the QAPP to fit their needs. However, there are certain key components described in the proposed rule that shall be required to be addressed in the QAPPs. Paul Simms asked if training will be provided to LSRPs to make it clear that filling

out the checklist on data usability is the responsibility of the LSRPs. Greg replied that data usability will be part of the training. Certification examination for LSRPs should include questions related to the generation of analytical data. Greg reminded everyone to send in any comments on the forms to him. Paul Simms asked if the MDLs apply to Surface Water samples. Greg responded that it is hard to meet Surface Water Quality Standards, and the requirements must be discussed in the QAPP should they be germane to the remediation.

Old Business

Jeri Rossi asked if any update is available on 1,4-dioxane. Marty Hackman (NJDEP/OQA) responded that none is available.

New Business

Seminars/Lectures on Topics of General Interest: Oommen Kappil asked if there is any interest in presenting seminars or lectures on topics of general interest during or after the monthly ELAC meetings. Some members expressed interest, but would like to know the topics ahead of time. Mike Miller reminded that Eastern Analytical Symposium offers short courses and seminars locally which might be useful to the lab community, and suggestions for topics may be sent to him.

TO-17 Reporting Limits: Greg Toffoli enquired about the reporting limits offered by laboratories for naphthalene by method EPA TO-17. Laboratories may send their reporting limits to Greg via email (Greg.Toffoli@dep.state.nj.us).

Field Sampling: Phil Worby asked if NJ is planning to offer Field Sampling Certification. Greg responded that NJ is not pursuing to become an Accrediting Body. Mark Feitelson (Precision Analytical) commented that sampling has a big impact on the quality of results. Mike Miller expressed concern that too often, field sampling and calibration records missing, and that there are no SOPs for field operations, but EPA does not mandate field certification.

2012 Nominations

The Chair stated that nominations were received at the last meeting for the positions of Chair (Jeri Rossi, IAL) and Secretary (Oommen Kappil, QC Labs) for the year 2012. The Chair asked for any additional nominations. There were no new nominations from the floor. Jeri Rossi and Oommen Kappil were elected unanimously as Chair and Secretary respectively for the year 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 10.45 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 12, 2012 on the 5th Floor Conference Room, 401 East State Street, Trenton, NJ. Anyone planning on attending the meeting must email Oommen Kappil (okappil@qclaboratories.com) no later than Thursday, January 5, 2012.

Note: All visitors must show one form of identification with a photo, or two non-photo IDs, when signing in at a DEP building. This will be performed at all DEP main lobbies in the Trenton complex (401, 501, 440 and 428). All visitors should be prepared to verify their identification.