



Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Final Meeting Minutes: October 8, 2015

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, Eileen Snyder (Alpha Analytical). Meeting minutes were taken by the ELAC secretary, Dorothy Love (Eurofins). The August 2015 ELAC Meeting Minutes were approved, with a motion by Charles Anzolut (Agra Environmental) and seconded by Les Glessner (Landis Sewerage Authority).

Environmental Laboratory Certification Program (ECLP): Deb Waller (NJDEP-OQA) provided a program update.

Discussion was held regarding the NJDEP OQA letter sent to laboratories (dated September 8, 2015) on Sufficiently Sensitive Methods for Testing Regulated Wastewater and Biosolids. The letter stated, "if you are a certified contract laboratory performing testing in support of a permittee/client NPDES requirement, you must ensure that you are using a method sufficiently sensitive enough to meet those requirements for all reported parameters". The department clarified that the permittees are responsible for the management of their permits and the communication of methods to the laboratory. If labs receive calls from the clients asking for direction on the methods to use, please direct them to contact Deb Waller (OQA 609-292-3950). For questions on permit limits, clients should be directed to the Bureau of Surface Water permitting (609-292-4860). Laboratories may receive copies of the client's permit for informational purposes but it is the permittee's responsibility to identify the methods and limits for the laboratory. Copies of the relevant letters with this contact information is attached to the September 10, 2015 ELAC meeting minutes.

The department would like to remind all laboratories to closely check their certification information (scope, etc.) prior to submission and upon receipt. Missing pages, methods, etc. are being seen. Beginning with the next round of renewals, anything that is not complete or correct will be rejected and returned to the laboratory which could result in an accreditation lapse.

Extensions have been given to October 30, 2015 for any laboratories that have not yet received their new certificate/scope.

Proficiency Test (PT) Program: Deb Waller (NJDEP-OQA) provided a program update.

Letters regarding the drinking water PTs will be sent out at the end of October or early November. Results are due to OQA by November 13, 2015. Reminder that the April 20, 2015 revision of the NJAC 7:18 regulations now includes the need to have documented corrective action on file for PT failures.

The NELAC Institute (TNI): Deb Waller (NJDEP-OQA) and Dorothy Love (Eurofins) provided an update.

The proposed changes to the LOD/LOQ section of Volume 1 Module 4 (Chemistry) are available for voting on the TNI website. This standard is open to a membership vote from October 11 until November 10. <http://bit.ly/1h10qm0>

The 2016 meeting schedule is: Tulsa, OK - January 25-28, 2016 and Orange County, CA - August 8-12, 2016

Sludge / Biosolids: No update provided. For questions regarding this program contact Anthony Pilawski at Anthony.Pilawski@dep.nj.gov, 609-633-3823.

Division of Water Supply/Safe Drinking Water: Linda Bonnette (NJDEP-BSDW) provided a program update.

A memo will be sent to all rad labs to specify the requirement for documentation for collection date and time, start date and time and completion date and time for gross alpha analysis. The analysis needs to be started no sooner than 36 hours from collection and completed within 48 hours from collection. If a second count is needed, the laboratory should enter the start date and time of the second count and the department knows that the second count start time will fall outside the 48 hour time limit.

NJDEP Drinking Water Quality Institute (DWQI) is working on a regulatory limit for 1,2,3-Trichloropropane (1,2,3-TCP/CAS# 96-18-4) of 0.03 ug/L (ppb). DWQI and BSDW are reviewing UCMR3 lab results and Linda is contacting labs for information on what RL (PQL) can be achieved under method 504.1. The DWQI is currently evaluating 0.03 ppb for the limit. While 524.3 (SIM) is not necessarily cost effective to achieve the low PQL for EDB, DBCP, TCP, it will be an allowable method. EPA Method 551 may also be an option. Labs will need to evaluate their options for certification or subcontracting, as 1,2,3-TCP will become a regulated compound soon.

The DWQI is also working on PQL development for Perfluorononanoic Acid (PFNA / CAS# 75-95-1) MCL based on PQL 0.013 µg/L (ppt) by EPA Method 537 (LC/MS/MS). BSDW is also reviewing UCMR3 lab results and contacting labs for information on this compound.

OQA is now offering fecal coliform enumeration certification under the drinking water program using MPN or membrane filtration.

Charles Anzolut (Agra Environmental) followed up with the DEP regarding the requirement in the revised total coliform rule (rTCR) for sampling up and down stream and the potential issues with access to the locations. A guidance document to address this is in development. Linda reported that a training session for rTCR is being planned for December 2015 (details to follow). The rTCR goes into effect on April 1, 2016 but any sampling plans will need to be in place prior to that date.

Mark Feitelson (Precision Analytical) posed a question regarding the requirement to report positive E.coli results to the state and the client within 24 hours of the failure and how labs address this on weekends. The recommended practice is to not accept compliance samples past Wednesday so that the communication and any resampling can occur within the 24 hour time frame and not fall on a weekend.

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

Site Remediation & Waste Management Program (SRWMP): No update was provided by NJDEP.

Tom Cady (API) attended the quarterly meeting with SRP and the Cooperative Venture Program/Site Remediation Advisory Group (CVP/SRAG) meeting in September. He noted that a stakeholder committee has been formed through the Technical Guidance process and is working on updating the EPH protocol in concert with the readoption of the Remediation Standards, with an expected release in Q1 2016. A separate technical guidance committee is also evaluating updates to impact to groundwater technical guidances. For more information regarding CVP/SRAG meetings, go to http://www.nj.gov/dep/srp/srra/stakeholder/cvp_srag/.

Eileen Snyder (Alpha Analytical) requested clarification on customer questions on two Soil VOA issues: (a) labs being directed to subsample from 25-gram encores into 5-gram encores for "total" VOAs; and (b) labs freezing 5-gram encores (in packaging) upon receipt or labs first extruding 5-gram encores then freezing upon receipt. Responses included: subsampling from 25-gram encores should not be done by the lab; the 25-gram encores should be used for SPLP not "total" VOAs; and the lab should first extrude 5-gram encores then freeze upon receipt (not freeze soil in the encore upon receipt). Additional reference information was provided by Rose Koplín (Accredited Analytical Resources) after the meeting. See below.

This is from the guidance document http://www.nj.gov/dep/srp/guidance/rs/splp_guidance.pdf:

*The NJDEP SPLP procedure requires samples for both total and SPLP analysis, and sample collection is more problematic for volatiles than for metals and semivolatile organic chemicals. Since a single soil sample cannot be collected, mixed and split without a large loss of volatiles, separate samples must be taken for total and SPLP analysis. The samples should be taken from immediately adjacent locations in an area of uniform soil type, to ensure that the total contaminant concentrations in each sample are equivalent. **A 5 or 25 gram sample is needed for total contaminant analysis (depending on the method), a 25 gram sample must be taken to use in the SPLP extraction test, and a third sample is taken for soil moisture determination.** The 25 gram sample taken for the SPLP test must be taken using an Encore® sampler (or equivalent), since methanol preservation may not be used on this sample and volatile loss must be prevented. It is also recommended that the sample for total VOC analysis be taken using an Encore® sampler, but methanol preservation techniques may be used.*

The **FSPM Chapter 6 6.2.7.3 VOC Soil Sample Collection Technique and 6.2.7.4.3 Small Diameter Core Sampler for Storage and Transport (e.g., En Core® Sampler)** answers freezing sample questions:

A minimum of three (3) individual 5-gram En Core® samplers must be collected for each soil sample. Upon sample collection, label each En Core® sampler cap with the label provided by the manufacturer and return it to the airtight, resealable foil package. Additional sample aliquot is also necessary for screening and moisture determination as discussed below. En Core® samplers should be iced (cooled to 4o C [+ 2o C]) or frozen (-7o C and -15o C) for later shipment to the laboratory. En Core® samplers can be shipped directly to the laboratory for VOC analysis; however, laboratory must extrude the soil from the En Core® sampler and analyze, chemically preserve or freeze the soil within 48 hours of sample collection. The soil samples must be extruded from the En Core® sampler into appropriate sample containers using a specially designed "T" handle push-rod tool available from the manufacturer. Soil can not be scooped out of the En Core® sampler using a trowel or spatula as

this can cause a significant loss of VOCs. The holding time for soil stored in an En Core® sampler can be extended if the soil is extruded by the laboratory within 48 hours to a sealed vial and frozen or chemically preserved until actual analysis.

Vini Bandeira (PTL) noted that they are encountering clients that do not understand that high moisture content in samples are causing phenols soil screening limits to not be met.

Follow-up discussion on the air emissions issues for laboratories: Vini Bandeira (PTL) had brochures for a methylene chloride recovery unit that their lab is evaluating. Charles Anzolut (Agra Environmental) reminded the group that the assessment for compliance is looking at the **potential** load. Therefore, if you replace your equipment but have the old equipment in storage it could be counted as a potential source.

Questions on the SRWMP program may be emailed to Greg Toffoli (NJDEP-SRWMP) at greg.toffoli@dep.nj.gov.

Subcommittees:

MUR Subcommittee: No updates provided

EDD Subcommittee: An update was provided by Ken Liao (NJDEP-SRP-BIS)

The primary focus at this time is on the back end systems for the enabling the data to be acquired. The DEP is working on a migration plan to move data from the old system to the new system. The Valid Values list will be provided but no date has yet been set.

One consultant has experienced issues with installing EDSA7 on their system. It seems to be a security issue at their location, not a DEP issue. Watch for issues like this and contact Ken Liao.

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Questions and comments may be directed to Roger Page (NJDEP-SRP-BIS) at: roger.page@dep.nj.gov

Communications / OQA Website:

ELAC Chair, Eileen Snyder (Alpha Analytical) reported that the NJDEP-OQA **website** is up to date with the approved minutes, ELAC bylaws, and 2016 calendar.

Meeting Schedule: The Meeting was adjourned with a motion by Charles Anzolut (Agra Environmental) and, seconded by Mark Feitelson (Precision Analytical). The next scheduled ELAC Meeting will be held on **Thursday November 12, 2015 at 9:30AM**, at NJDEP, 401 East State Street, **4th Floor Conference Room** in Trenton, New Jersey. **Those planning to attend must email the ELAC Secretary, Dorothy Love at: dorothylove@eurofinsUS.com by Tuesday, November 3, 2015.** Nominations for the 2016 office holders will be held at the November meeting.

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.***