



Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Meeting Minutes: October 13, 2016

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 9:40am by the ELAC Chair, Dorothy Love (Eurofins). Meeting minutes were taken by Eileen Snyder (Alpha Analytical) in the absence of the ELAC secretary, Nick Straccione (SGS Accutest Inc.)

The July 2016 ELAC Meeting Minutes were approved, with a motion by Steve Reduker (IAL) and seconded Rose Koplin (Accredited Analytical).

Environmental Laboratory Certification Program (ELCP): Rachel Ellis and Marty Hackman (NJDEP-OQA) provided an update.

A Listserv notice was send out on August 29, 2016 with changes to the fields of accreditation consistent with changes made by EPA and published in 40CFR. Added: Hexavalent Chromium in Drinking Water by Method 218.7; Changed: pH/Corrosivity was combined into one field; Deleted: Corrosivity as a single field.

Data Miner 2.0 is live and currently in use, while beta testing continues, as well as BIS work on a few minor bugs. The improved system allows for search results to be downloaded in PDF or Excel file format, including fields of accreditation for laboratory certification.

NJDEP-OQA no longer accepts email requests to change or modify laboratory certifications. Going forward laboratories must submit a modification package for any and all requested changes (including personnel changes).

NJDEP-OQA encourages laboratories to sign up for listserv notices and visit the OQA Bulletin Board for news updates:
<http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/oqa/bboard.html>

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

Proficiency Test (PT) Program: Rachel Ellis (NJDEP-OQA) provided a program update.

The Solid/Soil and Hazardous Waste studies are currently underway. The Drinking Water study letters will be sent out in late-October 2016. The Wastewater makeup study is underway with results due by November 13, 2016.

New PT studies include: Drinking Water Method 537 (active), Non-Potable Water (NPW) Method 537 (planned), and Solid/Soil Method 537 (planned). Going forward, these new PT studies will now be required for laboratories seeking NJDEP certification for Method 537; the PT approach replaces the "user defined" approach under which NJDEP OQA will no longer offer certification. Compound Lists for these new PT studies are to be determined by NJDEP OQA. Currently, certified laboratories report a variety of compound lists for Method 537. Per Greg Toffoli, NJDEP's Site Remediation Program expects laboratories to analyze and report the 12 compounds listed in EPA Method 537.

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

The NELAC Institute (TNI): Rachel Ellis (NJDEP-OQA) provided an update.

The status of the 2016 TNI Standard was discussed, including progress made at the August 2016 meeting held in Anaheim CA. The 2016 TNI Standard is currently on hold for additional revisions to address issues raised including MDL calculations. A revised standard is expected to be finalized in early 2017. The next TNI conference will be held in January 23-25, 2017 in Houston TX.

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 was provided.

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) provided an update.

The Rule Update Package for the UHOT, UST, ARRCs, and Tech Regs Rules is currently in management review, with the Rule Proposal expected to be released in late-2016/early-2017. The Remediation Standards Rule Proposal is expected to be released in winter/spring-2017.

NJDEP-SRWMP has hired 4 new staff, including 2 in the analytical chemistry group and 2 in the ecological/human health risk group, to replace the senior staff retirements (which continue to occur).

Greg Toffoli fielded several questions on a range of topics from laboratory representatives at the meeting. These topics follow.

NJDEP was asked about review and approval of use of SNAP Samplers by LSRPs. Greg had asked and found that SRP staff had not heard of these devices and had no experience with this new sample collection technology. Greg reviewed the manufacturers' websites and did not see information to support claims of "approved by EPA". Greg encouraged laboratories to direct these LSRP inquiries to him for review and consideration.

NJDEP was asked about PCB hold times, regarding NJ-certification, SW-846 recommendation of 7-/14-day hold times (to extraction), SRP Analytical QA/QC Technical Guidance, and EPA Clean Water Act Method 608 (which allows for a 1-year sample hold time). Greg indicated that SRP defers to OQA on this issue, but indicated that while SRP may qualify data that exceeded the 7-/14-day hold times, SRP would not reject these data.

NJDEP was asked about how laboratories should treat compounds for which NJDEP has recently issued new Interim Groundwater Quality Standards; specifically should labs be analyzing all compounds all of the time? Greg indicated that SRP guidance and rule directs the LSRP to begin a site investigation at a new site with the full TCL/TAL compound list plus addition compounds of concern based on site history. However when NJDEP promulgates a new standard, it is up to the LSRP to decide if it needs to be analyzed at a specific site. NJDEP-SRP (Greg Toffoli) was clear that LSRPs determine compounds of interest for sites, not laboratories. These types of questions posed by LSRPs to laboratories should be referred to NJDEP-SRP (Greg Toffoli).

NJDEP was asked to confirm that laboratories should qualify data for unfiltered metals samples received for lab filtration and preservation with the 24-hour hold clock expired. NJDEP was also asked to provide a reference for this requirement (Greg will research this and get back to the group). Laboratories indicated that LSRPs are pressing laboratories not to qualify these hold time exceedances.

NJDEP was asked to clarify the regulatory criteria for the contingency compounds listed in the NJ-EPH Method (naphthalene and 2-methylnaphthalene). Greg clarified that the most current regulatory criteria apply to these and/or any other compounds (Note: do not use outdated regulatory criteria referenced in older methods).

NJDEP was asked about the use of the SPLP approach to determine site-specific soil-impact to groundwater criteria for hexavalent chromium. To date NJDEP's experience in this area has been limited, as most responsible parties elect to remediate these areas of impact to lowest levels of total chromium. Discussion confirmed the 24-hour hold clock for hexavalent chromium in SPLP leachate begins once the leachate has been created.

NJDEP was asked to clarify the reference for the requirement to collected TCLP VOA Soil sampling in EnCore samplers (with qualified data reported for samples collected in septum lid jars). Per Greg Toffoli, there should be no difference between collection of Soil VOA samples for TCLP vs. SPLP analysis - both should be collected in EnCores to minimize the loss of volatiles. Greg Toffoli indicated that it is the interpretation of NJDEP-SRWMP that, while there may be no specific reference to collect TCLP Soil VOA samples in EnCores, it is the intent of EPA Method 5035 and NJDEP SRP rules and guidance to minimize loss of volatiles in the collection and analysis of Total VOAs, TCLP VOAs and SPLP VOAs in soil samples.

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

New Business:

Dorothy Love, ELAC Chair (Eurofins) reminded the group that Nominations for 2017 ELAC Officeholders will open during the November 2016 meeting, with a vote taken during the December 2016 meeting. The 2017 ELAC Meeting Schedule was recently established and will be posted on the website.

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

The BIS Team continues to work on back-end conversion of data from an Access to an Oracle based system. The front-end web portal and the new EDDI spec are under management review and not yet ready for beta testing. The BIS Team now estimates an EDDI release date of late-2017 or early-2018.

The Team also continues to work on a range of interim ESDA issues, including: **(1)** the existing (old) installer is creating issues with new software updates (i.e., Windows 10) so a patch was created to support conversion of newer EDD file formats into a version readable by the current ESDA system; **(2)** a work around was created to override the conversions Excel makes to 4-digit years, a required EDD field, for which the ESDA checker will soon start rigorously checking going forward (**Note:** EDDs submitted with a 2-year data field will be rejected); and **(3)** a patch is being created to force the ESDA checker to read SRP Site ID#s that begin with multiple "000"s (by reading and normalizing inserted dashes, hyphens, or spaces into this field).

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 2016 calendar. The website will be updated soon with the 2017 meeting calendar and the final minutes for the July 2016 meeting. Note: the August 2016 and September 2016 ELAC meetings were cancelled.

Meeting Schedule: The Meeting was adjourned with a motion by Charles Anzolut (Agra Env.) and seconded by Steve Reduker (IAL). The next scheduled ELAC Meeting will be held on **Thursday, November 10, 2016 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: nicholas.straccione@sgs.com by Thursday, November 3, 2016.**

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.*