



Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Final Meeting Minutes: April 12, 2007

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

Everyone was asked to review the minutes at their leisure and send their comments, corrections, etc. to Sharon O'Toole (MAEL).

Subcommittee Reports

Laboratory Certification Program: Mack Rahimi (SBRSA) stated that new added methods were not listed on Part III. Rachel Ellis (NJDEP/OQA) asked him for specifics.

Harvey Klein (GSL) read an e-mail from Steve Posavec, which indicates the 21st edition of *Standard Methods* may be considered equivalent to those cited in the Methods Update Rule. (A copy of this e-mail is included with these minutes.) Phil Worby (QC) stated the Standard Methods On-Line has been approved.

PT Program: Rachel Ellis (NJDEP/OQA) will be on maternity leave during June and July. Labs will receive a letter with a list of contacts for while she is gone. The Wastewater invoices went out last week and are due May 6th. Solid/Hazardous Waste PTs will ship next week. The *Intent to Suspend* letters from the January study should be sent this month. The October letters will be sent out early. The Drinking Water reports are out but have not yet been reviewed by the OQA.

TPH: Tom Cady (HC-V) stated an e-mail from Greg Toffoli (NJDEP/ODQ) said June 30th would end freon use. Fast tracking of applications for QAM-025 rev certification was questioned by several at the meeting. Rachel Ellis (NJDEP/OQA) stated if the application was part of the renewal package, it would not be looked at until July.

The NJDEP/SRP update on the QAM method may not come until the end of the year. It will not be the Massachusetts or Washington methods and has to be beta tested.

Dr. Michael Miller (NJDEP/OQA) stated other states never remove methods. It was reported method 418.1 was gone in PA, with no transition period. The only freon exception are pharmaceuticals.

TNI: Dr. Michael Miller (NJDEP/OQA) reported voting on field standards closes April 30th and voting on accreditation is currently going on. After voting, the results will be presented to NELAC for final review. Quality for Proficiency Testing is still in draft form; voting/comments to go out in July. Labs, PT providers and non-NELAC states are on the body. Still parts of NELAC in place but should be totally TNI in August. EPA members can not vote but other agencies have no problem with their people voting. Whether to have one or two rounds of Proficiency Testing per year is up for question. Making the PTs more specific for the

technologies instead of broad enough to cover all is a consideration. Only 13 NELAP states but the non-NELAP states have more of a say, even a subcommittee.

NJQLs: Andy Fishman reported the electronic system is being delayed to support the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water. The system will be checked out next week before launching. Tentative training dates, subject to change, are: May 7th at the Morris County library; May 8th in Gloucester County, and May 30th in the NJDEP Conference area. Training will require an R.S.V.P. as space is limited. Only one person per agency/lab can attend training. A hard copy of the letter will be sent via U.S.P.S. but the R.S.V.P. can be faxed or scanned and e-mailed. Training will be 2 –3 hours in length.

Bioassay: No report.

Sludge (Biosolids): Anthony Pulaski (NJDEP/BPR) stated PQLs were not wanted at the pretreatment/influent stage. It was suggested by Harvey Klein (GSL) to notify labs to report to the lowest standard on the calibration curve. Others added that the PQL would be more appropriate.

Communications and (OQA) Website: The ELAC minutes will be posted. Suggestions have been requested for other content to be posted.

Old Business

DMR: Tom Cady (HC-V) reported an e-mail with the link for the DMR manual would be sent out shortly. Comments would be accepted until April 30th.

Bureau of Safe Drinking Water: Linda (NJDEP/BSDW) reported the Long Term Stage 2 surface water E. coli method needs to enumerate, not just determine presence/absence. Membrane filter method is acceptable.

PWTA: John Shevlin (NJDEP/BSDW) reported the old system would be turned off Friday (April 13th) and the new system started Monday (April 16th). The new system is very similar to the old spreadsheet. He informed everyone a User ID and a PIN to use the system.

Percholarte is still in review, hoping to propose it soon but it will not be in effect until next year.

Karen Fell (NJDEP/BSDW) reported PFOA (not Teflon) guidance has been posted by the Division of Water Supply. Although 40 ppt is the limit, the average person has 5 ppb in their blood. PFOA was found in 78% of the 23 labs. Does not appear to be coming out in treatment. PFOA is a carcinogen but the non-carcinogen portion drives the health numbers.

Karen also reported the radiologicals is a “very complicated” rule. Letters were sent to the systems to update their data. Most systems are sampling in 3, 6 and 9 years.

Site Remediation: Greg Toffoli (NJDEP/ODQ) indicated the report requirements by ODQ seem to be moving to paper format instead of electronic format. It was requested someone from ODQ attend the meeting next month to respond.

Tom Cady reported on Commissioner Jackson's recent speech where she stated 4,000 clean-ups had been approved. There are 300 case managers and 18,000 sites remaining which may require outsourcing some of this work.

New Business

Lab Certification Fee Proposal: No report.

Annual Meetings: Tom Cady (HC-V) reported receiving about 25 – 30 responses. Planning on an all day annual meeting sometime in the 4th quarter of this year.

Reporting Limits: Some labs are reporting to the MDL, but this is not the industry standard according to Tom Cady (HC-V). No published methods – EPA 600 or SW-846 – require reporting to the MDL and have not back to 1984 reported Harvey Klein (GSL). Terrie McIntyre (Merck) had a letter from the EPA written in 1999 (the last time the officially addressed this topic) where they state labs are to follow the method. As no method requires reporting to the MDL, labs are to report to the PQL (Practical Quantitation Level).

Other: Deb Waller (NJDEP/OQA) will speak on QA at the May 1st NJWEA meeting.

There were not any other new issues. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for 09:30 AM on May 10, 2007 – 5th Floor Conference Room.

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.