



Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Final Meeting Minutes: February 14, 2008

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. Tom Cady (HC-V) had everyone introduce themselves around the room. Harvey Klein (GSL) made the motion to accept the minutes as amended; the motion was seconded by Steve Reduker (IAL). Motion passed.

Subcommittee Reports

Laboratory Certification Program: Rachel Ellis (NJDEP/OQA) reported renewals are being printed now and should be sent out on time.

Martin Hackman (NJDEP/OQA) reported Dr. Michael Miller (NJDEP/OQA) is working on the letter extending the hold time for petroleum products (QAM-025) to 14 days but did not know when it would be sent out.

Tom Cady (HC-V) questioned the OQA's position on the SW-846 update. Martin Hackman (NJDEP/OQA) said no decision has been made. Phil Worby (Accutest) suggested taking off the letter suffix. Martin replied that some states leave off the letter (suffix) and some keep the old method. Harvey Klein (GSL) asked about the NELAC stance on this. Martin stated they (OQA) are trying to find the NELAC letter concerning methods. It was stated how *Standard Methods* could be problematic as the edition must be included. It was also noted the edition of *Standard Methods* is not included in the ACPL. Harvey stated SW-846 is published by the EPA as non-certified methods but New Jersey, and other states, certify SW-846 methods. Terrie McIntyre (Merck) asked what would happen when you are certified for one method and the updated version would be audited. Tom stated this topic would remain on the agenda for the next meeting.

PT Program: Rachel Ellis (NJDEP/OQA) reported the December WP results were released yesterday and the January WS closes in a week. She added this is the first time OQA will deal with suspensions and enforcement. The next round invoices, for June, go out in March. 2540G for SQAR (sludge) is a required PT.

TNI: No report. The last meeting was in Newport Beach CA, which Joe Aiello (NJDEP/OQA) attended. They plan to do a study where NELAC does only one PT study per year instead of the current two. It was noted New Jersey would be undergoing their biannual audit soon.

NJQLs: No report.

Sludge (Biosolids): No report.

Communications and (OQA) Website: No report

Old Business

Bureau of Safe Drinking Water & PWTA: Linda Bonnette (NJDEP/BSDW) stated the letter for arsenic for Warren and Sussex counties was forwarded to Sharon O'Toole (MAEL) this morning.

Linda reported the Act's five years will be up in March but will be readopted with the addition of arsenic required in Warren and Sussex counties.

Karen Fell (NJDEP/BSDW) reported there would be a Groundwater Rule seminar soon sponsored by the NJWEA. She suggested having this topic on the agenda for the last 20 minutes of a meeting to which Tom Cady (HC-V) replied this would be a great idea.

Karen said the new schedules are not yet on the website but expected them to be so by next week. She added they would start dealing with the water systems instead of the labs and will begin rejecting incorrect or missing lab identification. It was suggested that, as a courtesy, to cc: the labs on this.

Karen went on to say there is a strict timetable for resampling for Total Coliform, which is not being adhered to but the bureau must enforce this.

Karen also reported two bureau chief positions have been filled - Sandy Krietzman for the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water and Karen Fell for Bureau of Loan and Data Management.

Site Remediation: Greg Toffoli (NJDEP/SRP) reviewed the hold times for soil VOAs for NJSCC per the NJ Field Sampling Procedure Manual - 14 days if preserved, frozen or in analysis. Methanol can be used, sodium bisulfate is not preferred and Encore has only 48 hours until analysis. Harvey Klein (GSL) stated the NJ Field Sampling is guidance only for use when NJDEP personnel sampling and the hold time is based upon the method. Peter Boughton (NJDEP/OQA) stated the OQA would go by the method.

New Business

Method 1631 (Mercury Amalgam Rule): Robert Royce (NJDEP/OQA) reported there is an FAQ concerning this method on the Drinking Water website. He added it is a grab sample using clean sampling techniques.

Harvey Klein (GSL) stated 1631 was poorly handled, scheduled to start in the month after the letter went out, no NJ labs are certified in this method and, at no point, was this brought up with ELAC making this a surprise to everyone. It was brought up that Lancaster Labs was the closest lab to be certified for this test and they would send all the supplies required for the test but they test effluent only and not influent so the amount of removal is unknown. He added this was a "clean sampling" technique and the sampler supposedly cannot even have mercury amalgam fillings. Tom Cady (HC-V) asked if there was anything ELAC could do. Harvey Klein (GSL) asked if those in the decision-making process had been invited to the ELAC meeting to discuss this. Tony Pilawski (NJDEP/BQR) said his department shares the same assistant director, so he will share the ELAC concerns.

Robert Royce (NJDEP/OQA) stated New Jersey is lagging in implementing this rule and he has worked with the Bureau of Point Source Permitting on this.

Method 1600 (Enterococci): Harvey Klein (GSL) reported that, in the 50s, 60s and 70s, Fecal coliform and Fecal Strep were used to determine the source. This was only valid for high, not low amounts. In 1986 the EPA found E. coli in fresh water and Enterococci in marine water might be a better indicator. New Jersey tests for Enterococci in ocean water. In July 2006, the method changing to have colonies with colony size equal to or greater than 0.5 mm be considered hits was published, becoming effective March 26, 2007. Harvey added the updated method is available online but noted the following concerns: 1) page 19 has a typo, and 2) If the result is ND (<1), subtract 1 but this is incorrect as it should be subtract 0. Harvey asked ELAC to review and to have this on the agenda for next month. He added he would be staying after the meeting to discuss this further with anyone interested.

There were no other new issues. The meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for 09:30 AM on March 13, 2008 in the 2nd Floor Conference Room.

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