



Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Final Meeting Minutes: April 10, 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 AM. The March 13, 2008 minutes were approved as amended with the motion made by Carl Armbruster (Test America) and seconded by Divyajit Mehta (Chemtech).

Subcommittee Reports

Laboratory Certification Program: Martin Hackman (NJDEP/OQA) reported they have completed the changes to Part III and hope to have them on the website next week. He added they have both methods, the old and new. Sharon O'Toole (MAEL) asked if both certifications were available to labs to which Marty replied NELAC requires the most current. Michael DiBalsi (NJDEP/OQA) added the ACPL won't reflect the changes for a while but that both methods (e.g. 8260B and 8260C) will be available. Divyajit Mehta (Chemtech) asked if labs had a choice in the Method to which Marty replied labs should use most current method but NELAC requires they service the client. Phil Worby (Accutest) asked if labs need to send in the revision and when would this become effective. Michael replied it will take some time for the ACPL to catch up and that both methods will appear on the ACPL if requested. He added labs need to send a letter indicating they wish to "add" the new method or "replace" the old method with the new with the new SOP required for the audit. Michael asked that he be called with any questions. Michael reminded everyone the renewals go into effect July 1st, not as soon as they are submitted.

Rachel Ellis (NJDEP/OQA) stated they hope to get the renewals out on time and labs should call if they have not yet received an invoice.

Oommen Kappil (QC) asked about the blank being used as a calibration point for TKN analysis. Rachel Ellis (NJDEP/OQA) referred him to Michele Potter, Deb Waller or Paula Blaze, all of the OQA, for an answer.

PT Program: Rachel Ellis (NJDEP/OQA) reported the aqueous portion of the Solid/Hazardous Waste PTs ship this Monday and the solid portion ships 04/21/2008. Labs are advised to report **every** method for which they are certified. The WW forms are due May 9th. These (June WW PTs) can be used for the DMRs.

TNI: Dr. Michael Miller (NJDEP/OQA) reported they are chugging along, committees are meeting, writing policies on standards. The PT committee is looking into whether they should have just 1 or 2 PTs per year and are looking across NELAP and EPA to collect and look at data from labs. The Lab Av. Committee is looking at added implementation documents. The next meeting is in D.C. in August.

Dr. Miller went on to discuss the NJDEP audit, which is scheduled for the second week of June. The accrediting body (AB) is to be audited and they will be looking at documentation.

They will also observe an on-site audit of a lab. Dr. Miller added all original ABs are being audited, a year late. They are supposed to be audited every three years and we are now into the 4th. A person from the regional EPA and a person from an AB outside of the region will be part of the audit team. They are also sending a TNI quality person to assure assessment is the same for all ABs. Audit was originally to be completed by July 1st but will probably go into September. The other ABs will be done next year.

NJQLs: Martin Hackman (NJDEP/OQA) reported the person handling NJQLs left and they are trying to get the new person up to speed.

Sludge (Biosolids): Anthony Pilawski (DWQ/BPR) said there was no report.

Communications and (OQA) Website: Tom Cady (HC-V) reported Deb Waller (NJDEP/OQA) asked for the updates to the minutes. It was asked if QAM-025 rev. 7 could be posted. Tom said he had been asked about other postings on the website – papers brought in by the membership- and asked previous chairs in attendance. He was told it was the chair's decision. Michael DiBalsi (NJDEP/OQA) asked if ELAC had its own website.

Old Business

Bureau of Safe Drinking Water: Linda Bonette (NJDEP/BSDW) reported nothing new but was asked about arsenic in NJ by Harvey Klein (GSL) where the feds have a limit of 10 ppb, NJ has a limit of 5 ppb but 17 ppb was found in Somerset County. Harvey added the TCE limit in NJ is 1 ppb but 5 ppb for the feds although they are looking at lowering it. Michael Furrey (AGRA) asked about radon and perchlorate. Linda replied perchlorate is still in attorney review with no timetable and she did not think radon had gone on to attorney review yet.

PWTA: No report.

Site Remediation: Greg Toffoli (NJDEP/SRP) reported the info concerning the new petroleum product method would come out around the same time as the publication of the remediation standards, hopefully in May.

Greg added they are pursuing methods to change how SRP does business. There are 20,000 active sites in the program right now. They are looking to licensed professionals, like Massachusetts, for the straightforward projects (home heating oil) as adding resources to the division is not an option. Greg said he will give more information as it becomes available.

Greg stated the NJ Soil Cleanup Criteria will be promulgated the 1st or 2nd week of May.

Tom Cady (HC-V) said (SW-846) 5035A allows for freezing Encore to expand its hold time, an option over the vials with water, which may have low internal standards if sampler gets dirt in the threads for the cap, preventing a tight seal. Greg said this is a concern, which is why they are pushing Encore.

The Program will not have Impact to Ground water standards published in the rule. However, guidance will be made available that will list the compounds and their corresponding default cleanup target numbers.

Greg also reported there is a meeting next week with OQA concerning Low Level TO15 being forced to drive low level down to health based standards.

Greg summed up by stating there are a lot of changes in SRP.

New Business

There were no other new issues. The meeting was adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on May 8, 2008 in the 2nd 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.