



Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Final Meeting Minutes: February 5, 2009

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 9:36 AM. The minutes were approved the motion made by Terrie McIntyre (Merck) and seconded by Phil Worby (Accutest).

Subcommittee Reports

Laboratory Certification Program: Regarding the SW846 method upgrade, Deb Waller (NJDEP OQA) stated that New Jersey will offer certification for the new and old method revisions (i.e. 8270C and 8270D). Labs can hold certification in both which would be reflected on their ACPL. Deb also stated that NJ would offer reciprocity for those labs holding secondary NELAC accreditation. Sharon O'Toole (MAEL) asked whether two separate SOPs will be required or if one combined SOP would be acceptable. Deb replied that either way is acceptable, but cautioned that if combining methods into one SOP, the SOP must include separate sections detailing the QC requirements specific to each method revision. Deb also suggested that the laboratory could follow the most stringent QC requirements from both methods as a way to prevent potential problems with missing required QC independent of the version used. While NELAC labs are required to use the most current method available, Deb cautioned that program specific requirements, permits or QAPPs might require the use of older versions of the method.

PT Program: Rachel Ellis (NJDEP OQA) stated the contract has tentatively been awarded to ERA. February 9th is the end of comment period, with an effective date of February 16th. Rachel stated the new contract goes into effect April and that labs can expect additional soil PTs as well as changes in the cost of the PTs. Rachel also reported that there is currently no plan to implement an SPLP PT.

TNI: Dr. Michael Miller (Consultant) reported that guidance documents are being developed for the new TNI standards showing differences between the current and new standards. He commented that the new standards are ISO-based and that labs will need to obtain a copy of the ISO 17025 standards. Dr. Miller also reported that the PT committee is still in the process of discussing the 1 vs 2 PT requirement as well as the best way to add experimental analytes to PTs. He reported the PT board would make final decisions before the August meeting. The PT board is also working on guidance documents to address multi-concentration PTs. In reference to the Field Standards, the field standards are ready for implementation by Field Sampling and Measurement Organizations. Dr. Miller noted a big concern is who will perform the accreditation. The Standard allows for governmental and private organizations to be Accrediting Bodies (AB). Only two states have Field programs. Several private organizations have expressed an interest. Deb Waller (NJDEP OQA) expressed concern over the implementation of the Field Standards, stating it is essentially a rehash of the quality systems manual subchapter 5 from the existing 2003 NELAC Standard and that it has no technical requirements, as well as the potential for third party accreditation. Dr. Miller pointed out that Quality System Standards apply to all parts of the environmental remediation industry. The

Field Standards require that the technical requirement of the sampling and analytical methods required by the client be followed and documented. Dr. Miller stated that the EPA is privatizing their Stationary Source Audit Sample (SSAS) program used by stack testers that test for stack emissions permits. The TNI has formed a committee that is writing standards for Companies preparing the audit samples and for an entity to assess and accredit the audit sample preparer.

Sludge (Biosolids): Tony Pilawski (NJDEP BPR) reported that a draft of the SQAR sludge document should be available April 1st. It will contain a table with required parameters for sludge analysis listing which method to use.

Communications and (OQA) Website: Deb Waller (NJDEP OQA) reported the web site is current with meeting minutes and that all future postings be addressed to Mike DiBalsi (NJDEP OQA).

Old Business

Bureau of Safe Drinking Water: Karen Fell (NJDEP BSDWI) reported she anticipates the Perchlorate draft rule to be published in the NJ register March 16th or April 6th. Karen noted that Barker Hamill is retiring on March 1st.

PWTA: Karen mentioned that the NJDEP will be providing an In-Depth Training on the Ground Water Rule February 23rd, 25th and March 3. A fourth date has also been added. Karen stressed it is a good training session, providing information on the groundwater rule requirements.

E2: Karen reported that fall letters were sent out regarding the July 1st deadline for submitting electronically. She stated that any samples collected on July 1, 2009 or later have to be submitted electronically. Paper will not be accepted.

Site Remediation:

Sharon O'Toole (MAEL) relayed the following information received via email from Greg Toffoli (NJDEP SRP):

Sharon asked if labs could expect SPLP analysis to increase because of Impact to Groundwater criteria. Greg replied that whatever works best for the responsible entities and that the labs will be the best indicators of this.

Regarding PQLs and percent solids driving the PQLs above the required limits, Greg stated there has been no resolution to date.

Greg requested that the labs that previously agreed to participate in the EPH round robin study contact him and give him a status update. He reported that SRP has received the data on the homogenization study and should be ready to start sending out 'real' samples to the participating labs.

Sharon asked for an update on the proposed changes to data packages submitted to SRP. Greg stated the proposed changes would require a full data deliverable on CD with only QC summaries provided on hard copy. However, there would still be instances where a paper copy full deliverable would be required, such as potables, Cr+6, Dioxin analyses and indoor air. The proposed changes will appear in the next proposal of the Tech. Rules. A version of the changes will be available to the labs in the interim, but the draft has not yet been approved.

Greg also reported the changes to the low-level air method are done and should appear on the SRP website in the very near future.

New Business

PCB, Cr+6 Hold times: Deb and Stu Nagourney (NJDEP-OQA) discussed the holding times for hexavalent chromium. For aqueous samples the holding time is 24 hours. For solid samples the holding time is 30 days to extraction, 7 days from extraction to analysis. Deb also discussed the option noted for the use of the buffer from EPA Method 218.6 to extend the hold time. Since SW846 has methods for hexavalent chromium the laboratory must follow the holding times in SW846 if it chooses to use SM 3500-Cr for the analysis.

For PCB's, once the issue of the holding time in Update IV of "none" was brought up, the discussion had to be tabled to the next meeting until further clarification could be established.

Stu Nagourney (NJDEP OQA) reported that there is a new high-level Hexavalent Chromium certified reference material (SRM) available. The certified value is 551ug/kg. He stated the sample was certified using Method 6800 – Isotope Dilution Mass Spec, but Method 3060A/7196A and 7199 were used to determine the measured value. While 7196A and 7199 results were very consistent, the measured value of is about 40% lower than the certified value. Stu forwarded data regarding the certified material to ELAC Chair Sharon O'Toole.

The next meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on March 12th in the 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.