



Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Final Meeting Minutes: March 12, 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 9:38 a.m. The minutes were approved with the motion made by Steve Reduker (IAL) and seconded by Phil Worby (Accutest).

Subcommittee Reports

Laboratory Certification Program: Deb Waller (NJDEP OQA) stated that renewal packages have been sent out to the labs. She also reported the date that OQA will be moving from its current location at 9 Ewing Street has been moved up. OQA will be moving into the 2nd floor at 401 East State Street by March 25th. Email addresses and phone numbers for OQA personnel are expected to remain the same. Deb asked that labs continue to send renewal packages to the Ewing Street address, noting that the packages are due by the 31st. In light of the timing, Deb recommended that packages be sent via certified mail.

PT Program: No update.

TNI: Sharon Ercoliani (GSL) reported she attended a TNI workshop at the PittCon in Chicago. At the workshop, Jerry Parr (TNI) reported that Module 1 – Quality Systems is complete and expects it to be voted on and adopted in August at the TNI meeting in San Antonio. Sharon stated that Jerry Parr indicated that labs could anticipate an easy transition to the new standard, as there are very few changes from the 2003 standards. However, one noted change is the addition of Chlorine residual check for Drinking Water samples. Labs can purchase the new standards on-line which includes the ISO language.

In regard to the PT frequency discussion, Sharon stated that Kirsten McCracken does not anticipate a change in the requirement of two PTs to one any time soon.

Sludge (Biosolids): No update.

Communications and (OQA) Website: Jeri Rossi (HCV) reported the web site is current with meeting minutes posted through February.

Old Business

Bureau of Safe Drinking Water: Linda Bonnette (NJDEP BSDWTA) reported the DEP will hold a Round Table seminar for drinking water labs on May 15th (rain date June 12th). Topics include the Ground Water Rule and how it affects labs, laboratory reporting procedures relating to the GWR and upcoming changes in regulations as well as newly regulated compounds, their MCLs, analytical methods and monitoring frequencies. There is a limit of three representatives per lab due to occupancy constraints. Information will be posted on the Water Supply website and an announcement will be emailed to all certified drinking water laboratories. Labs are strongly suggested to attend this seminar in order to learn how the Ground Water Rule will affect the labs and their public water system clients. If this seminar

cannot be attended there are several Ground Water Rule seminars being given by the DEP staff throughout the state. The details regarding these GWR seminars can be found on the Water Supply website.

PWTA: Sharon Ercoliani (GSL) asked for clarification from BSDWI regarding the definition of undetected Chlorine. Detectable chlorine is defined in the NJSDW regulations, however non-detected Chlorine is never defined and many different levels of detection are utilized in the field.

Site Remediation: Greg Toffoli (NJDEP SRP) reported the EPH method is currently undergoing a round robin study. Labs have received their samples and he expects the study to be completed by the end of March. Greg stated the goal is to fast track this and make it available for certification shortly upon completion of the study. Once the new method is posted on the Part III, there will be a 6-month grace period before the method becomes mandatory. During the 6-month grace period, the existing two TPH methods (QAM025 and 8015) can continue to be used. In the interim, the health based criterion for diesel/#2 fuel will be changed from 4800ppm to 5100ppm. For all other petroleum products, the guidance value remains at 10,000ppm.

Greg also reported the new Low Level TO15 method is complete and should appear on the SRP "What's New" website within a few days. He stated the requirements are less stringent; reporting requirements less stringent as well.

Greg distributed copies of what most likely will be the proposed laboratory deliverables (Appendix A – NJAC 7:26E) when they are repropoed in July. The committee is proposing to have two types of electronic deliverables: a Full and a Basic deliverable. Full deliverables would be required only for Potable water, air, Cr+6, Dioxins/Furans and 'publicly funded work'. No hard copies would be required by SRP. The Basic deliverable would contain less information than the current Reduced deliverable. Greg asked for feedback from laboratories regarding the feasibility of these proposed deliverables. All comments or questions can be sent to Greg or Sharon O'Toole (chair).

Licensed Site Professionals program: Greg reported that the LSP is expected to get underway within the next couple of weeks. Dr Miller (Consultant) asked who would be overseeing the program, to which Greg responded that an LSP board will be created that will include people from academic backgrounds and scientific discipline, members from the department and LSP.

Regarding percent solids and PQLs, Greg reported there has been no decision made yet. If labs encounter a situation where data is rejected because the percent solid raises the PQL above regulatory limits, Greg recommended having the data reviewed by the Office of Data Quality.

Vini Bandiera (PTL) asked for guidance regarding samples that fail criteria with an estimated concentration value "J" as the only failed parameter (i.e. Benzene @ 1.01J). Vini also asked Greg about samples that meet criteria but do not meet PQLs due to dilution factors. When a sample requires a dilution due to high concentrations of non-target analytes (i.e. TICs), still

meet all other criteria but PQLs cannot be reached without risking damage to instruments. Vini also pointed out that clients sometimes request SIM analysis on sample matrices where SIM analysis would be of no benefit, such as product samples, because they insist on the need to meet low PQLs. Greg Toffoli (NJDEP SRP) replied that client education is needed.

PCB Hold times Deb Waller stated OQA sought guidance from EPA Region 2 regarding discrepancies in hold time requirements between SW846 Update III (14 days to extract, 40 days to analyze) and Update IV (hold time = none). She reported that Region 2 has not changed their hold time requirement for PCBs and that OQA will require labs to use the more stringent hold time.

There was no other new business. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55am.

The next meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on April 2, 2009 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.