



## Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Final Meeting Minutes April 2, 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 9:37 a.m. The minutes were approved with the motion made by Paul Maid (APL) and seconded by Steve Reduker (IAL).

### **Subcommittee Reports**

**Laboratory Certification Program:** Rachel Ellis (NJDEP OQA) stated the laboratory certification renewals were due on March 31<sup>st</sup>. If renewal packages were not submitted by the deadline, labs may not receive their renewal certificates by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Joe Aiello (NJDEP OQA) reported labs can expect to see an increase in laboratory certification fees in the future. The fee structure has been the same since its adoption in 1996. He indicated the program currently collects approximately \$900,000; the anticipated amount was ~\$3,000,000, the amount it costs to run the program. A new fee structure is needed to support this cost. Joe stated he anticipates seeing a fee adoption proposal within the next year. He also indicated that ELAC most likely would not have an opportunity to comment on the proposal prior to it being published, but does anticipate that there will be a comment period after the proposal is published in the NJ Register and before adoption. Sharon O'Toole (MAEL) asked how much of an increase labs could expect. Joe replied the fees could easily double, with a cap of ~\$9,000-\$10,000. (The current cap is \$4500.) He also indicated that the category lists will be expanded, separated out by technologies.

Sharon O'Toole (MAEL) asked if labs not residing in a NELAP state requesting primary certification in NJ could be denied certification. Joe replied that in certain instances, certification can be denied. For example, a Pennsylvania lab applying for primary certification in New Jersey for a parameter where certification is offered in Pennsylvania.

**PT Program:** Rachel Ellis (NJDEP OQA) stated the June Waste Water PT invoices had been sent out. She indicated several changes to the PTs have been made, such as Mercury and Hexavalent Chromium. They are no longer included in the Metals PT, but are each a separate PT now. Because of such changes, Rachel cautioned labs to check both the invoice and cost table carefully. Rachel stated the Solid Hazardous Waste pre-shipment letters had also been sent out. The Solid samples will ship on April 13<sup>th</sup> and the aqueous portion will ship on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Notice of intent to suspend for the January DW PT will go out the week of April 6<sup>th</sup>. She also mentioned there will be a new LT 2 Enumeration PT in the January DW PT.

**TNI:** Joe Aiello (NJDEP OQA) reported he expects the adoption of the new TNI standards to take place this summer at the TNI meeting. Accrediting bodies would have a maximum 2 years to change over to the new standards. He also reported TNI is working on the implementation of NEFAP (National Environmental Field Accreditation Program). The program is similar to the lab accreditation process focusing on sampling and field testing, based more on quality systems.

**Communications and (OQA) Website:** Jeri Rossi (HCV) reported the website is current with meeting minutes. Peter Boughton (NJDEP OQA) asked whether there had been any issues with mail delivery from UPS or other couriers in light of the recent OQA move. Rachel Ellis (NJDEP OQA) replied that all mail has been forwarded to the new address.

**Sludge (Biosolids):** Tony Pilawski (NJDEP BPR) indicated the deadline was missed for the sludge manual but expects it to be completed in April and out by the end of the month for comment. Tony stated he would send a draft of the manual to Sharon O'Toole (chair).

## **Old Business**

**Bureau of Safe Drinking Water:** Linda Bonnette (NJDEP BSDWI) reported the date for the Round Table seminar for drinking water labs has been set for May 15<sup>th</sup>. She reminded the committee that pre-registration is necessary due to occupancy restraints.

In response to Sharon Ercoliani's (GSL) question posed at March's ELAC meeting regarding the definition on 'non-detected Chlorine', Linda stated that the BSDWI working on a resolution. Linda indicated that non-detected Chlorine might be defined as anything less than 0.05ppm, acknowledging that certain instruments can read lower, i.e. 0.01ppm. Heterotrophic Plate Count (HPC) might be required for any result below 0.05ppm. She also stated the use of color wheels would not be allowed; digital test kits would be required. Phil Worby (Accutest) cautioned that requiring HPC for any reading <0.05ppm could result in clients looking for labs that do not report below 0.05ppm.

Karen Fell (NJDEP BSDWI) reminded the committee that E2 submittal is mandatory for transient water systems by July 1<sup>st</sup>. A second mailing has been sent out stating the need to register online. Karen asked about the laboratory community to help inform their clients of the need to register, possibly by handing out registration forms.

**PWTA:** Karen Fell reported there is nothing new to update.

**Site Remediation:** No Update.

Terrie McIntyre (Merck & Co.) asked for an update on the status of the NJQLs. Joe Aiello (NJDEP OQA) responded that while it is still in the works, there has been no progress made. The contract has not been awarded.

## **New Business**

There was no new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:18a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. in the 5th Floor Conference Room.

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