



Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Final Meeting Minutes: May 14, 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 Terrie McIntyre (Merck). Carl Armbruster (TestAmerica) seconded the motion.

Subcommittee Reports

Laboratory Certification Program: Rachel Ellis (NJDEP OQA) reported that laboratory certification renewals will be mailed out at the end of June in the order in which they were received.

PT Program: Rachel reported that the January Drinking Water PT failure notices of Intent to Suspend had been sent out. The Waste Water PTs will be shipped mid-June. She reminded the committee that the invoices for the July Drinking Water PT are due at the end of the month. She also indicated there is a new PT for initial certification for Drinking Water PFOA/PFOS, Method 537.

TNI: No Report.

Sludge (Biosolids): Tony Pilawski (NJDEP BPR) reported the draft SQAR sludge document was available and open for comments. Based on initial comments from both Deb Waller (NJDEP OQA) and Bernie Wilk (NJDEP OQA) some of the methods have been changed to SW846 methods: Method 9014 was added for CN. The Nitrate method was changed to 9056. Tony also stated that recommended Reporting Limits (RLs) are included in the SQAR manual for the first time because results need to be compared to the lowest applicable standard available, which often is the soil standards. Tony asked for feedback from the lab community regarding achievability of these RLs.

Les Glessner (LSA) asked whether grab or composite sampling was required for Rad work. Tony indicated that composite sampling would most likely be required but would need to verify this. In the interim, he said, whatever is stated in the permit needs to be followed.

Communications and (OQA) Website: Jeri Rossi (HCV) indicated the website is up-to-date with meeting minutes.

Old Business

Bureau of Safe Drinking Water: Linda Bonnette (NJDEP BSDWI) introduced Eileen Murphy who recently moved from Science and Research division to BSDWI. Linda reported approximately 60 people registered for the Round Table seminar to be held on May 15th for drinking water labs.

Karen Fell (NJDEP BSDWI) reported the bureau is working on a "Drinking Water Watch" website which will feature information about public water systems. Analytical data will be posted to this website first.

In reference to a question posed by Sharon Ercoliani (GSL) at the March ELAC meeting regarding the definition of undetected Chlorine, Linda reported that the tentative decision is to require the use of digital hand-held colorimeters with a detection limit of 0.05ppm or lower. Chlorine Residual will need to be taken before every micro sample, regardless of whether or not the system is chlorinated. If the device reads less than 0.05ppm, the detection limit should be recorded on the COC. Harvey Klein (GSL) explained that the colorimeters are precalibrated. When the internal calibration is used it is more accurate than performing an external calibration. Linda Bonnette (NJDEP BSDWI) replied that the on-line analyzers for disinfectant residuals require another manufacturer's standard to be used as a check. Harvey replied that the use of gel cells merely check the validity of the meter. They are absorbance checks and do not read Chlorine. The use of different meters will produce slightly different internal calibration curves, therefore, the gel cells will give different readings on different meters.

E2: Karen Fell (NJDEP BSDWI) stated that notices were sent out stating transient systems must submit electronically by July 1, 2009. Approximately half of the systems are in the system. A letter will be sent out stating that labs can submit data in lieu of the facility.

Site Remediation: Greg Toffoli (NJDEP SRP) reported the Licensed Site Remediation Professionals (LSRP) program was signed into law by Governor Corzine on May 7th. He recommended accessing the SRP website which contains the May 11th presentation by Irene Kropp and as well as other information including implementation timelines for the program. Greg indicated he anticipates lots of changes during this time and reinforced the need for better communication between the lab and the clients with the advent of the LSRP program.

Greg reported he is still awaiting feedback from the lab community regarding the proposed changes to data packages, as well as round robin data from participating labs for the EPH method.

He also reported the change in DRO/petroleum contingency in the Base Neutral (BN) fraction to 2-Methylnaphthalene and Naphthalene for some tanks (generally for home heating oil tanks <2000 gallons). A full BN will usually be required for tanks >2000 gallons (mostly non-residential) or tanks containing petroleum product other than #2 fuel. There are three categories that address petroleum product analysis requirements. There is a guidance document on the SRP website that addressed this issue in detail.

New Business:

Rachel Ellis (NJDEP OQA) reported that the Office of Quality Assurance will be closed on May 22nd and June 15th* (furlough days).

*-subsequent to meeting, the June 15th furlough has been cancelled.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:41 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 11th at 9:30 a.m. on 7th Floor Conference Room.

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