



Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Final Meeting Minutes June 11, 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 9:37a.m. The minutes were approved with the motion made by Carl Armbruster (TestAmerica) and seconded by Phil Worby (Accutest).

Subcommittee Reports

Laboratory Certification Program: Rachel Ellis (NJDEP OQA) stated lab renewals will start to go out the week of June 15th. State labs will receive renewals first, then NELAC labs.

PT Program: Rachel stated the June Water Pollution PTs will ship Monday, June 15th. Make-ups for the January Drinking Water PT will be done in July. Tom Cady (HCV) asked Rachel if there has been an increase in the number of requests for certification for Methods 8011 or 504.1. Rachel indicated that there has been an increase for Method 8011, but not 504.1. Mark Feitelson (Precision Labs) asked if Method 504.1 could be used for ground water. Rachel indicated Method 504.1 could be used in place of Method 8011.

TNI: No update.

Sludge (Biosolids): Mitzi Kaiura (NJDEP BPR) reported the BPR is still requesting feedback regarding the draft SQAR Sludge document. Phil Worby (Accutest) suggested that the document be resent via email as a reminder.

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

Old Business

Bureau of Safe Drinking Water:

E2: Linda Bonnette (NJDEP BSDWI) reported for Karen Fell (NJDEP BSDWI) that all transient water systems not yet submitting electronically have been registered and given a "B" designation. Also, some labs are not yet submitting electronically and need to register. Sharon O'Toole (MAEL, chair) asked who is responsible for submitting results when work is subcontracted out. Linda Bonnette (NJDEP BSDWI) replied that any analysis subcontracted to another laboratory must be reported by the subcontracted lab. She noted that this is the opposite requirement of reporting under the PWTA program. In addition, Mark Feitelson (Precision Labs) asked for an update on the Perchlorate rule, specifically when it is expected to go into effect. Linda reported it is expected to occur the second half of 2010.

PWTA: No update.

Site Remediation: Greg Toffoli (NJDEP SRP) reported he is still awaiting feedback from the lab community of the proposed changes to data deliverables. The LSRP is proceeding as expected, with subcommittees working on interim rule. Sharon O'Toole (MAEL, chair) asked if LSRP individuals could still perform remediation due to potential conflict of interest. Greg stated that the rule is still being written and the question cannot be answered at this time.

Greg also reported the petroleum guidance documents are being rewritten. Instead of three categories, there will be two. Naphthalene and 2-Methylnaphthalene will be required for all #2 fuel/diesel tanks, regardless of size, residential or non-residential. All other petroleum products will require a full Base Neutral scan. Tom Cady (HCV) asked if contingent Naphthalene and 2-Methynaphthalene on SPLP would still be required. Greg replied that SPLP would still be necessary.

Greg reported the EPH round robin is still going on, awaiting data from one more lab. Oommen Kappil (QC Laboratories) asked Greg if there would be allowance for alternate extraction techniques other than the proposed Soxhlet method. Greg replied that other extraction techniques are being considered.

Tom Cady (HCV) commented that clients are increasingly asking for the Lloyd Kahn TOC method, not SW846 9060 and asked if SRP or OQA knew why that appeared to be the preferred method. Greg (NJDEP SRP) indicated he would look into this and report back. Tom also requested SRP to issue a guidance document regarding dilutions and meeting regulatory criteria. As an example, Tom stated a sample might have high concentrations of Xylenes requiring dilution to bring the concentration within calibration range, resulting in a raised detection limit for Benzene that does not meet standards. Phil Worby (Accutest) added that clients often have the misconception that they must meet regulatory criteria for all analytes regardless of the concentration of other constituents in the sample, resulting in having to report from multiple runs.

Steve Reduker (IAL) asked if there was any resolution to the percent solids and PQL issue. Greg replied that the issue would be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

New Business

Harvey Klein (GSL) reported the EPA came out with a notice stating they are looking into bringing together various methods and their revisions because of differences in QC requirements, the goal being to use the latest approved method. Harvey also reported recent discussions with EPA regarding problems associated with reporting of bacterial results. For example, the MCL for recreational bathing for Enterococcus is three significant figures (104/100ml), but when reporting results, Standard Methods require reporting to two significant figures. Phil Worby (Accutest) noted a similar situation exists with Turbidity analysis, which has method specified reporting requirements.

There was no other new business. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 9, 2009, 9:30 a.m. on 5th Floor Conference Room.

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