



Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Final Meeting Minutes September 10, 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

Sharon O'Toole (MAEL) called the meeting to order at 9:41AM. The minutes were approved with the motion made by Kripa Dubry (Chemtech) and seconded by Paul Simms (Alpha).

Subcommittee Reports

Laboratory Certification Program: Rachel Ellis (NJDEP/OQA) reported that updated lab cert paperwork continues to be mailed to labs from NJDEP OQA. Rachel also mentioned that the Draft Certification Fee rule is currently under department legal review. Public hearings on the rule will likely take place in late 2009/early 2010. The timing of the public hearings will be coordinated with the time/date of an ELAC committee meeting. Michelle Potter (NJDEP OQA) will have more information.

PT Program: Rachel Ellis (NJDEP/OQA) stated that 'Intent to Suspend Letters' stemming from failures in the most recent WP study will be in the mail by next week.

The October 2009 SHW PT ships on 10/13/09.

Drinking water suspension letters will be mailed in 2-3 weeks.

Rachel mentioned that labs not performing the newly required NPW PTs (ex., acidity, nitrite, SQAR, etc..) are subject to fines.

Air PTs will start in January 2010. Their frequency will be somewhat concurrent with the Drinking Water studies (the DW studies will ship early in the month, Air PT will be later in that same month). These Air PTs are not a NELAC requirement. Only 1 PT / year is required. The VOA Air PT fraction will cost approximately \$1300/each. The costs for the remaining Air PT fractions will be on par with the corresponding SHW PTs. No NJ Low Level Air PT is available at this time.

TNI: TNI held a joint meeting with NEMC in San Antonio, August 10-14, 2009. Helen MacMinn (ALSI) was in attendance and reports that a representative from USEPA discussed SW846 methods status. TNI reps had requested the older SW846 method versions be withdrawn. EPA Office of Solid Waste (OSW) reps said there was no need to remove the older methods as they are 'technically sound' and that all issues concerning use lie with the end users of the methods, not with EPA OSW. Phil Worby (Accutest) mentioned that only the most recently released method versions seem to be posted on EPA's SW846 website. He also mentioned that PADEP will continue to certify for older versions of SW846 methods as long as the lab community needs them. The NELAC standards state that the labs must use methods, which meet the needs of the client. There will be instances when a client needs an

older method revision. In such cases a lab using only the most recent revision would not be able to service the client. Ultimately end users drive the methods offered by labs.

It was also reported that the TNI PT Committee stated that PT frequency would likely remain at 2x per year.

TNI Field Sampling Certification is still in development. The TNI Field Sampling Committee is attempting to convince parties like DOD to incorporate the Field Sampling Standard into their contracts.

Sludge (Biosolids): No report

Communications and (OQA) Website: Marty Hackman, NJDEP OQA, reported that the NJ certified lab webpage is not currently linked from the USEPA Drinking Water website. Kevin Kubik, USEPA Region II has been notified and is actively working on creating the links.

ELAC minutes are up to date on the NJDEP OQA website.

Old Business

Bureau of Safe Drinking Water: Linda Bonnette (NJDEP BSDWI) reported that reporting via the E2 system is going well with transient systems. The current plan is to require other public water systems (non-transient and community systems) to report via E2 by April 2010. Sharon Erocliani (Garden State Labs) mentioned that some community systems do not want to move to the E2 system, as they would prefer to submit data to NJDEP themselves. Once data is in the E2 database only DEP can access the data. If there is an error DEP has to delete the erroneous data before a lab can re-submit corrected data (Rich Gunoskey or Linda Doughty at DEP are contacts for this process).

Currently, radiologicals and quarterly chlorine summaries cannot be submitted via E2.

Linda Bonnette reminded everyone of the NJDEP Water Watch website which allows users to access drinking water data from NJ water systems:

https://www11.state.nj.us/DEP_WaterWatch_public/index.jsp

Groundwater under the influence of surface water: In order to determine whether groundwater is under the influence of surface water a water system must do testing to establish the hydrologic connections (conductivity, pH, etc.). If the system is under influence of surface water total coliform testing must be done. If total coliform is present then fecal coliform testing must follow (a requirement of federal regulations). Very few systems will need to do this testing. Linda Bonnette (NJDEP) indicated that if a system is doing fecal coliform for groundwater under the influence of surface water they should not change their microbiology methods unless they first confirm with NJDEP.

PWTA: No report

Site Remediation: Rachel Ellis (NJDEP OQA) relayed the following information on behalf of Greg Toffoli (NJDEP SRP): The NJ Extractable Petroleum Hydrocarbon (EPH) Method is

undergoing final NJDEP review. It is expected to be finalized within the next few weeks. Once approved it will be added as a certifiable method on the NJDEP OQA Application Part III. Notification will be made by OQA to the lab community by way of a letter outlining certification requirements (target date for letter is 10/1/09). Certification requirements will include MDL study, DOCs, SOP and, eventually, PT study results. At this time an EPH PT is not available through the NJDEP/ERA contract. Discussions between NJDEP and ERA are taking place. The MA EPH PT sample currently offered commercially by ERA is a candidate for use. Information on PTs will be forthcoming once a decision is made.

Phil Worby (Accutest) asked whether there is a requirement to reference a specific analytical method when analyzing and reporting percent moisture for the purpose of doing a dry weight correction. It was mentioned labs reporting percent moisture for sludges, as an analyte under SQAR must use and reference SM2540G. Otherwise there is no specific analytical method reference requirement for moisture analysis on solids/sludges.

A discussion of EPA Method 524.3 took place. EPA recently approved this method for drinking water analysis. This method is already listed on the NJDEP OQA Application Part III. It is an alternate to EPA Method 524.2 and does not replace that method. Method 524.3 includes an option to analyze some compounds (EDB/DBCP) by selected ion monitoring (SIM).

New Business

Sharon O'Toole (MAEL) mentioned that EPA Method 200.5, newly approved for drinking water analysis, utilizes procedures already approved under EPA Method 200.7 (ICP axial view). The list of analytes in Method 200.5 is longer than the list of 200.7 analytes. Also, EPA 200.5 is approved for drinking water arsenic analysis while EPA 200.7 is not. Paula Blaze (NJDEP OQA) said that NJDEP is not currently certifying for Method 200.5 but that it is under evaluation and that more info will be forthcoming.

Also per Sharon Ercoliani: John Shevlin (NJDEP) has indicated that a new spreadsheet is in effect as of today for PWTA reporting. The spreadsheet is used to create XML files and can be found on the PWTA website. Contact John Shevlin for more info.

Sharon Ecoliani also reported that since the last E2 update in June/July the labs have been receiving no email confirmations. Similarly, no rejection notices from SDWIS are being received by the labs. Linda Bonnette (NJDEP BSDWI) will investigate.

Steve Reduker (IAL) moved that the meeting be adjourned at xx AM. Sharon Ercoliani (GSL) seconded the motion.

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.