

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

**SUMMARY OF THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

**Teleconference: 866-299-3188/9195415544#**

**December 17, 2014; 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. EST**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board (ELAB or Board) teleconference was held on December 17, 2014. The agenda for this meeting is provided as Attachment A, a list of the participants is provided as Attachment B, and action items from the teleconference are included as Attachment C. The official certification of the minutes by the Chair or Vice-Chair is included as Attachment D.

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

**1. OPENING REMARKS**

Ms. Patty Carvajal, Vice-Chair of ELAB, and Ms. Lara Phelps, Designated Federal Official of ELAB, welcomed participants to the teleconference and called an official roll of the Board members and guests. Ms. Phelps announced that she would be taking the minutes for the meeting because the new task order was not in place yet for the new contract with The Scientific Consulting Group, Inc.

**2. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER MINUTES**

Dr. Mike Delaney had sent an email about the polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) section to note that he did not believe he made the remarks attributed to him. Mr. Michael Flournoy had confirmed via email that those remarks were made by him. Dr. Charlie Carter moved to accept the minutes with the change, and Ms. Aurora Shields seconded the motion. The Board approved the November minutes unanimously with the above change.

**3. ELAB FACE-TO-FACE MEETING, CRYSTAL CITY, VIRGINIA**

Ms. Carvajal noted that the face-to-face meeting in February would be shorter than past face-to-face meetings. She currently is updating the PowerPoint presentation for the meeting and will send it to the ELAB members soon to obtain feedback from the various task group leads.

**4. ORGANIZE TASK GROUPS/UPDATES ON CURRENT TOPICS**

*Confirm a Lead for Each Task Group.*

Ms. Carvajal shared the current task group Excel spreadsheet with the Board via Adobe Connect. She asked for a volunteer to lead the Interagency Data Quality Task Force (IDQTF) Task Group and then noted leaders also were needed for the In-Line and On-Line Monitoring Task Group and Qualification of Drinking Water Data Task Group. Ms. Carvajal volunteered to lead the

latter, and Mr. Flournoy volunteered to lead the former. Ms. Shields confirmed that the number of Board members allowed to participate in each effort was seven.

Dr. Henry Leibovitz asked whether members involved in the IDQTF effort could provide a summary of the previous work and accomplishments. Dr. Dallas Wait clarified the topic being discussed but was unsure how his name was added to the Task Group list because he did not remember participating. Ms. Shields confirmed that most prior members of the small group were no longer ELAB members. Dr. Leibovitz agreed to lead this effort but would like to start by bringing the committee up-to-date regarding what the prior group accomplished. Ms. Silky Labie was identified as the person to provide him with this information.

### ***Method Update Rule (MUR)***

Ms. Carvajal indicated the Board still was waiting for the MUR to be published in the Federal Register. Dr. Carter told the Board he had contacted Mr. Adrian Hanley (EPA), who indicated the sign date currently was scheduled for January 5, 2015.

### ***PCBs***

Ms. Carvajal indicated that Dr. Mahesh Pujari was not able to attend this call, but he had sent the following email:

*Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all!*

*I will not be able to join the teleconference tomorrow, as I am in a civil service selection board. However, as I am taking the lead on the PCB method issue, I contacted both Adrian Hanley and Lem Walker for guidance. Adrian is extremely happy for ELAB working on PCB method issue, as he is also looking for a simple method (not 1668C) to analyze PCB congener. He has several options in mind. I had a brief talk with him today and we will discuss again on 12/30 for an hour. We will then request other PCB subgroup members to join a conference and proceed further.*

### ***Methods Harmony***

Dr. Wait reiterated that his update for the last couple calls had been to recheck with EPA in the spring about the status of their efforts in regards to method harmonization and importance for all task groups to pull together suggestions, as they arise. He was embarrassed to have forgotten the commitment made to EPA in August to identify 3 – 5 methods for each program that ELAB felt most important or most beneficial to having greater method harmonization. Dr. Wait will be scheduling a meeting in early January to pull together this list and workgroup members should provide him with any advance thoughts in the meantime. He confirmed the group members include: Ms. Shields, Ms. Susan Mazur, Ms. Michelle Wade, Dr. Carter, and Mr. Flournoy, which Ms. Carvajal confirmed was correct. Dr. Wait reiterated that he would like to schedule a meeting the week of January 5, 2015 and group members should let him know their availability or hot ideas in the meantime. Dr. Carter clarified Dr. Wait would be sending out an invitation for the meeting, which Dr. Wait confirmed and reiterated to let him know if any pressing conflicts already existed for anyone on the group.

### ***IDQTF Data Quality Objectives Process***

Ms. Carvajal said that the Task Group had not met recently, and Ms. Labie was unavailable for this call. Dr. Leibovitz will be contacting Ms. Labie to obtain the history of the effort and lead the group going forward.

### ***Qualification of Drinking Water Data***

Ms. Carvajal will lead this group as soon as she is able to obtain a copy of the last letter written; her goal is to schedule a meeting with the group prior to the January ELAB meeting.

### ***In-line and On-line Monitoring***

Ms. Carvajal explained that this group did not have a lead until today's meeting, so it has not met yet. ELAB received a Request for Proposal, which will serve as a resource for this group.

### ***Selected Ion Monitoring***

Although Ms. Patsy Root was unavailable for the call, Ms. Carvajal said that she still was waiting on a response from the Forum on Environmental Measurements and will decide the course of action once she hears from them.

### ***Environmental Measurement Request (Added Item)***

Ms. Carvajal apologized for not including on the agenda Ms. Phelps' request that ELAB provide thoughts on what the term "environmental measurement" means to the Board. Ms. Carvajal clarified with Ms. Phelps whether an official response or just discussion was required. Ms. Phelps said that brainstorming would be fine, although she was happy to receive an official response, too. Ms. Carvajal read Ms. Phelps' request:

*As you know, a new website for Environmental Measurement at EPA is under construction, which will be the primary conduit to ELAB's website in the future. When you think about 'environmental measurement', what topics, terms, subjects, etc would you as a technical, public user of this internet site expect to find information about?*

Dr. Wait said that he thought measurement was a holistic approach beginning when a sample was being taken through it being stored and ultimately analyzed—a complete process. Dr. Leibovitz that said he would expect to see the variety of environmental matrices that are being measured. In response to Dr. Wait, he was not sure how this information should be communicated on the website.

Ms. Carvajal asked whether there were additional thoughts. Ms. Shield said that field measurements should be a component, and Dr. Carter immediately agreed. Dr. Carter added that measurements made him think broad scale, and while Dr. Wait gave a very concise start-to-finish picture, Ms. Shields added an important missing piece. Too often the pieces of the process, and not the whole process, are considered, which would be beneficial to include on the site. Ms. Carvajal and Ms. Phelps thanked the Board, and Ms. Phelps added that Board members could provide her with suggested key words via email.

## 5. NEW TOPICS/ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

### *Presentation by Dr. Delaney on Cyanide*

Dr. Delaney presented information about cyanide via Adobe Connect; Board members were provided the PowerPoint presentation via email. Dr. Delaney has been working on cyanide his entire 20 years at the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, and although he used to dislike cyanide, he now embraces its diversity. His goal is to make improvements without causing trouble.

Dr. Leibovitz thanked Dr. Delaney for a good presentation and mentioned that changes will be important. He asked whether there also would be recommendations on avoiding headspace. Dr. Delaney indicated that the Standards Method Committee for cyanide that he chairs had been meeting on the topic of preservation and holding time and is considering no headspace because of the potential to lose hydrogen cyanide gas in unpreserved samples. Studies show that limited headspace probably is a good idea.

Mr. Flournoy thought that the hold time study could have applicability to more methods. Dr. Carter knows the people who made the original decisions on the current hold times, and Dr. Leibovitz added that this shows it could be interpreted in a different way.

Dr. Delaney asked whether anyone was interested in talking further on ELAB because he would love to obtain additional ideas from them. Dr. Carter confirmed that he was not the right person for this, but he knows people in TestAmerica who are interested and would recommend they get in touch with him

Ms. Carvajal asked whether there were additional new topics, and none were provided.

## 6. WRAP-UP/REVIEW ACTION ITEMS

Ms. Phelps reviewed the action items identified during the meeting, which are included in Attachment C.

## 7. WRAP-UP/REVIEW ACTION ITEMS

Dr. Flournoy moved to adjourn the meeting, and Dr. Carter seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

**Attachment A****AGENDA**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ADVISORY BOARD**

Monthly Teleconference: 866-299-3188/9195415544#

December 17, 2014; 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. (EDT)

Opening Remarks	Phelps
Approval of November Minutes	Carvajal
ELAB Face-to-Face Meeting, Crystal City, Virginia	Carvajal
Organize Task Groups	Carvajal
Confirm a Lead for Each Task Group	
Updates on Current Topics	All
Method Update Rule	
Polychlorinated Biphenyls	
Methods Harmony	
Interagency Data Quality Task Force/Data Quality Objectives Process	
Qualification of Drinking Water Data	
In-Line and On-Line Monitoring	
Selected Ion Monitoring	
New Topics/Issues for Consideration	
Presentation by Mike Delaney on Cyanide	
Wrap-Up/Review Action Items	Carvajal/Phelps
Closing Remarks/Adjourn	Phelps/Carvajal

**Attachment B****MEMBERSHIP LISTING AND GUESTS  
ELAB TELECONFERENCE****December 17, 2014; 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST**

<b>Attendance (Y/N)</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
N	Ms. Patsy Root (Chair)	IDEXX Laboratories, Inc. Representing: Laboratory Product Developers
Y	Ms. Patricia (Patty) M. Carvajal (Vice-Chair)	San Antonio River Authority Representing: Watershed/Restoration
Y	Ms. Lara P. Phelps, DFO	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Representing: EPA
Y	Dr. Charles (Charlie) Carter	TestAmerica, Inc. Representing: TestAmerica
Y	Dr. Michael (Mike) Delaney	Massachusetts Water Resources Authority Representing: Massachusetts Water Resources Authority
Y	Mr. Michael Flournoy	Eurofins Environment Testing U.S. Representing: American Council of Independent Laboratories
Y	Mr. Keith Greenaway	ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board Representing: The NELAC Institute
N	Dr. Deyuan (Kitty) Kong	Chevron Energy Technology Company Representing: Chevron
N	Ms. Sylvia (Silky) S. Labie	Environmental Laboratory Consulting & Technology, LLC Representing: Third-Party Assessors
Y	Dr. Henry Leibovitz	Rhode Island State Health Laboratories Representing: Association of Public Health Laboratories
Y	Ms. Susan L. Mazur	Florida Power and Light Representing: Utility Water Act Group
N	Ms. Cindy Nettrour	American Water Representing: American Waterworks
N	Dr. Mahesh P. Pujari	City of Los Angeles Representing: National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA)
N	Dr. James N. Seiber	University of California, Davis Representing: Academic and Research Communities
Y	Ms. Aurora Shields	City of Lawrence, Kansas Representing: Wastewater Laboratories
N	Ms. Michelle L. Wade	Kansas Department of Health and the Environment Representing: Laboratory Accreditation Bodies
Y	Dr. A. Dallas Wait	Gradient Representing: Consumer Products Industry

Attendance (Y/N)	Name	Affiliation
Y	Ms. Rachel McIntosh-Kastrinsky (EPA ASPPH Fellow)	EPA
Y	Ms. Lynn Bradley (Guest)	The NELAC Institute
Y	Ms. Kristen LeBaron (Guest)	The Scientific Consulting Group, Inc. (SCG)



## Attachment C

### ACTION ITEMS

1. Ms. Phelps will finalize the November 2014 meeting minutes and send them to Ms. Carvajal via email for signature.
2. Mr. Flournoy will set up a meeting of the In-Line and On-Line Monitoring Task Group.
3. Ms. Carvajal will obtain the last letter written about the qualification of drinking water data and set up a meeting of the Task Group devoted to this effort.
4. Dr. Leibovitz will contact Ms. Labie for background on the IDQTF Task Group work and set up a meeting of the Task Group.
5. Dr. Wait will set up a meeting for the Method Harmony Task Group during the first week of January. Task group members should let Dr. Wait know if they have any conflicts that week.

**Attachment D**

I hereby certify that this is the final version of the minutes for the Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board Meeting held on December 17, 2014.

  
Signature Chair

Ms. Patricia Carvajal

Print Name Chair