

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUN 27 2017

OFFICE OF WATER

Henry Leibovitz, Ph.D.  
Chair, Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board  
50 Orms Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02904

Dear Dr. Leibovitz:

Thank you for your letter dated May 17, 2017, providing comments on the draft white paper from The NELAC Institute (TNI) entitled "The Primary Purpose of Whole Effluent Toxicity Proficiency Testing or Discharge Monitoring Report - Quality Assurance Testing (DMR-QA)." The Environmental Protection Agency values the advice of the Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board on behalf of the environmental laboratory community.

The Office of Water oversees both the Clean Water Act Analytical Methods program and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit programs for both the EPA Regions and their authorized states. Another organization within the EPA, the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, administers the annual DMR-QA Study.

The relevant staff from both the Water and Enforcement Offices have reviewed the TNI white paper and your letter. The EPA understands and appreciates the points made in the white paper, and is exploring options regarding proficiency testing parameter consistency and additional reporting requirements.

The EPA would like to engage TNI and/or ELAB in a follow up meeting to discuss some of the recommendations. Adrian Hanley the Clean Water Act Methods Team Leader from the OW's Office of Science and Technology will serve as the point of contact for ELAB. The critical EPA staff that need to be involved in this discussion are Gregory Savitske from the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance, the staff lead for DMR-QA Studies; Laura Phillips from the Office of Wastewater Management's Water Permitting Division; and Teresa Norberg-King, EPA's Whole Effluent Toxicity subject matter expert from the Office of Research and Development. Adrian Hanley will be in touch soon to schedule this meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael H. Shapiro".

Michael H. Shapiro  
Acting Assistant Administrator