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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C. 27709

OFFICE OF
THE SCIENCE
ADVISOR

August 1, 2016

Dallas Wait, Chair
Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board
Gradient
20 University Road
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Dr. Wait:

On behalf of the Forum on Environmental Measurements (FEM), I would like to thank the Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board (ELAB) for your letter on promoting laboratory involvement in the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) development process.

The FEM reviewed ELAB's April 28, 2016 letter during our quarterly meeting on May 12, 2016. We concluded the letter should be shared with Intergovernmental Data Quality Task Force (IDQTF) members and, on July 18, 2016, a meeting was held between EPA and Department of Defense representatives.

The group agreed with the points highlighted by ELAB as being good science and the need to further communication. This topic will be added to the Fall IDQTF Agenda to discuss and develop guidance for engagement during collaborative work efforts. The IDQTF workgroup would also like to extend an invitation to Dallas Wait, as ELAB's Chair, and/or Henry Leibovitz, as the ELAB Task Lead, to participate in this portion of the fall meeting. Doug Maddox, EPA IDQTF representative, will be contacting you with details, once they are set.

We want to again thank you and the other members of ELAB for all the work you do to assist the Agency in improving the quality of our programs. Please continue to send us your comments and suggestions, since ELAB serves as an important mechanism for the FEM to keep abreast of important issues facing the monitoring community and to receive the community's input on our activities.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 919-541-5544 or phelps.lara@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lara P. Phelps". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lara P. Phelps
Executive Director, FEM