

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



## **ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

**Monthly Teleconference: 202-991-0477/7939251#, August 6, 2018; 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. CT**

### **MEETING SUMMARY**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board (ELAB or Board) in person and teleconference meeting was held on August 6, 2018 at the National Environmental Monitoring Conference in New Orleans, LA. The agenda for this meeting is provided as Attachment A, a list of meeting participants is provided as Attachment B, and action items are included as Attachment C. The official certification of the minutes by the Chair or Vice-Chair and the Designated Federal Officer is included as Attachment D.

### **ROLL CALL/ INTRODUCTION**

Dr. Dallas Wait, Chair for today's ELAB meeting, welcomed the members and guests to the meeting. He took roll of the members present and attending by teleconference.

### **APPROVAL OF THE PRIOR MINUTES**

Dr. Wait asked whether any members had comments about the Board's July 2018 meeting minutes— no changes were suggested to the meeting minutes. Ms. Sharon Mertens moved to approve the minutes, and Mr. Brad Meadows seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the July meeting minutes.

### **OPENING REMARKS AND UPDATES FROM THE DFO**

Dr. O'Farrell, the Designated Federal Official (DFO) for ELAB, welcomed everyone to today's meeting. The Agency appreciates ELAB members' time and diligent work in preparing for this meeting. There is a new suggestion box available for topics that ELAB can work on in the future and he asked people to contribute to that. Deb Waller clarified a few things about the suggestion box and asked people to put topics and contact information on the form.

### **ACTIVITIES SINCE LAST AUGUST FACE TO FACE MEETING**

Dr. Mike Delaney went over major activities since the August 2017 ELAB Meeting. ELAB has sent several letters to EPA on different topics that have come up. These letters include: Preservation of Acrolein and Acrylonitrile, Mass Spec Library Searches, Cyanide Testing for Drinking Water, Drinking Water Certification Officers Training, and asking for an extension comment on the Transparency in Regulatory Science Rule. During this meeting, these topics will be covered and updates provided.

## **TASK GROUP UPDATES ON CURRENT TOPICS**

The Board possesses broad expertise and works on a variety of topics identified by ELAB members, the Agency or the environmental laboratory community. The Board addresses these topics through temporary Task Groups. The Task Group leaders or their representatives provided a report of current topics/activities.

### ***Cyanide Methodology***

We are waiting on a response from EPA to our last letter. ELAB took an extensive look at drinking water cyanide testing and it showed there is a likelihood for false positives. Because drinking water testing is prescriptive, labs don't have options on how samples are preserved and treated. We sent EPA a letter, asking to revise the guidance documents for cyanide testing for drinking water. Dan Hautman (EPA, OW) said that EPA is working on a response to the ELAB letter. This topic will be moved to the inactive list, awaiting a response from EPA.

### ***Selected Ion Monitoring (SIM)***

There have been no updates since the last meeting on this topic. ELAB sent a letter to EPA and we received a response from EPA on July 17, 2018. EPA's letter thanked us for our letter and had comments on issues they would like ELAB to address. EPA would like ELAB to address suggested changes for Ion Ratios and add a section on Isotope Dilution. One other comment suggested clarifying some wording in the section on method flexibility. Dr. Delaney will reconvene the task group on SIM and would like comments from ELAB. We will discuss this topic again at the September meeting.

### ***User-Generated Library Acceptance Criteria***

Last August, ELAB received several comments on this topic and opinion was split about the advantages and disadvantages of User-Generated Libraries. We didn't address this for all platforms or methods and we tried to limit it to GC/MS and only for quantitative methods. We had to request from EPA to clarify that User Generated Libraries with acceptable quality control criteria might be an alternative for this limited application. Dr. Buckley had a draft letter ready to go back in February that was distributed to EPA for comments. Since then, ELAB has worked through the concerns EPA had and will soon be sending the final letter through. The Board will vote on sending the letter at the next meeting.

### ***Acrolein and Acrylonitrile***

Dr. Pujari presented slides outlining ELAB's continuing effort to ask EPA to change the preservation for these two target analytes in wastewater samples to pH 2. Dr. Richard Burrows from Test America added it's very difficult to preserve a volatile sample by adjusting pH with vigorous mixing without loss of target compounds.

### ***PCB Congener Method***

Dr. Pujari gave a summary of the work done so far on this issue. No updates since the May ELAB Meeting with Mr. Adrian Hanley. Mr. Hanley is planning to give another update on this

method at the next ELAB meeting in September.

### ***Drinking Water Program Adoption of Recent Approved Methods***

ELAB wrote a letter to EPA asking that they only consider the most recently approved version of drinking water methods. This would replace the older versions of a method and would make it easier for labs to track a single version. Ms. Deb Waller provided the draft letter of the “Drinking Water Program Adoption of Recent Approved Methods” at the August ELAB meeting and will prepare a new version for discussion and approval at the September ELAB meeting.

### ***Inactive Topics***

#### *1. Whole Effluent Toxicity PT Standards*

We have been dealing with this issue for 2-3 years, since TNI brought it to the Board. We wrote a letter to EPA saying we support the recommendations in TNI’s white paper. Several members of the audience spoke up asking for help on this issue saying that they would rather have to conduct these methods based on what their NPDES permit says rather than a uniform way used by all labs. It was commented that states have different QA requirements, which make comparison between labs difficult. Dr. Delaney will talk to Mr. Greg Savitske (EPA, OECA) about what to do next to address this issue.

#### *2. Drinking Water Certification Officer’s Training Course*

This issue began in 2016 when the NELAC accreditation council sent a letter to EPA about the drinking water certification officer training program. They were concerned that the in-person training was no longer adequate. ELAB agreed on the position so last October ELAB sent a long letter to the EPA Office of Water stating the concerns. Mr. Dan Hautman from EPA just responded to ELAB. Once ELAB has a chance to review the EPA letter we will discuss the next steps.

#### *3. Addressing Emerging contaminants*

This is an inactive topic and ELAB is waiting on further guidance from EPA.

#### *4. Interagency Data Quality Task Force/Data Quality Objective*

Dr. Leibovitz explained that this group is about improving the process for writing QAPs for projects and the original concern came from environmental testing labs who said it was unfair that they were only given the opportunity to bid last minute on QAPPs for EPA and DOD projects without being any part of writing QAPPs.

### **NEW TOPICS/ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

We provided a comment box for people to provide their input and suggest topics they want ELAB to address.

ELAB might consider addressing an EPA OGDW Method Detection Limit memo that is not clear to the laboratory community.

A new task group will be formed to look at improvements to the EPA 600-series methods.

#### **WRAP-UP/SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS**

Dr. Wait and Dr. O'Farrell reviewed the action items identified during the meeting, which are included in attachment C. The next ELAB meeting is scheduled for the 19<sup>th</sup> of September.

#### **CLOSING REMARKS/ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Wait moved to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Ms. Waller. The Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.



**Attachment A**

**ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ADVISORY BOARD (ELAB)**

Face-to-Face Meeting/Teleconference: 202-991-0477 / 793-9251#

*Date | time* 8/6/2018 | 1:30-3:30PM CT | *Meeting called by* Dallas Wait

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Agenda

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<b>Item</b>	<b>Owner</b>
Call Meeting to Order	Wait
Introduction of Board Members/Roll Call	Board
Approval of Minutes for Previous Meeting(s)	Wait
Opening Remarks and Updates from DFO	O'Farrell
Activities Since August 2017	Wait/Delaney
Updates on Current Topics	Board
A. Cyanide Methodology — Delaney	
B. Selecting Ion Monitoring — Delaney	
C. User-generated Library Acceptance Criteria — Buckley	
D. Acrolein and Acrylonitrile Preservation and pH — Pujari	
E. Improving PCB Congener Method Option — Pujari	
F. Drinking Water Program Adoption of Recent Approved Methods — Waller	
Inactive Topics awaiting feedback/input	Board
A. Whole Effluent Toxicity proficiency study standards — Leibovitz	
B. Drinking Water Certification Officer's Training Course — Mertens	
C. In-Line/On-Line Monitoring — Flournoy	
D. Interagency Data Quality Task Force/Data Quality Objective Process — Leibovitz	
E. Addressing Emerging Contaminants — Mertens	
New Topics/Issues for Consideration	Delaney
Wrap-Up/Summary of Action Items	O'Farrell/Cawiezell/Delaney
Closing Remarks/Adjournment	O'Farrell/Delaney

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## Attachment B

### PARTICIPANTS LIST

<b>Board Members Attendance (Y/N)</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Y via teleconference	Dr. Michael (Mike) Delaney (Chair)	Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA)  Representing: MWRA
N	Mr. Michael Flournoy (Vice-Chair)	Eurofins Environment Testing USA  Representing: American Council of Independent Laboratories
Y	Dr. Thomas O'Farrell (DFO)	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  Representing: EPA
N	Dr. Kim Anderson	Oregon State University  Representing: Academia-Oregon State University
Y	Dr. Brian Buckley	Rutgers Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute  Representing: Academia and Laboratory—Rutgers
Y	Ms. Patricia (Patty) Carvajal	San Antonio River Authority  Representing: Watershed/Restoration

Y	Dr. Deyuan (Kitty) Kong	Chevron Energy Technology Company Representing: Chevron
Y via teleconference	Mr. Jeff Loewe	NiSource, Inc. Representing: Industry— NiSource, Inc.
Y	Dr. Henry Leibovitz	Rhode Island State Health Laboratories Representing: Association of Public Health Laboratories
Y	Mr. Brad Meadows	Babcock Laboratories, Inc. Representing: Commercial Laboratory— Babcock Laboratories, Inc.
Y	Ms. Sharon Mertens	Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District Representing: The NELAC Institute
Y via teleconference	Dr. Mahesh Pujari	City of Los Angeles Representing: National Association of Clean Water Agencies
N	Mr. Elan Rieser	Con Edison – Representing: Utility Water Act Group
Y (Chair)	Dr. A. Dallas Wait	Gradient Representing: Consumer Products Industry
Y	Ms. Debra (Deb) Waller	New Jersey Department of



		Environmental Protection (NJDEP)  Representing: State Government—NJDEP
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**PARTICIPANTS LIST (CONT)**

<b>Contractors and Guests Attendance (Y/N)</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Y via teleconference	Mr. Thomas Cawiezell	Contractor at EPA



## **Attachment C**

### **Action Items**

**Deb Waller:** will send the EPA Office of Water MDL Guidance document out to ELAB members

**Deb Waller:** will update the Drinking Water Method Rule letter and send it back to ELAB members for review

**Attachment D**

I hereby certify that this is the final version of the minutes for the Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board Meeting held on August 6, 2018.

*Michael F. Delaney*

**X**

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Dr. Michael Delaney  
Chair

**X**

*Thomas O'Farrell, 10/12/18*

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Dr. Thomas O'Farrell  
Designated Federal Officer

