

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Monthly Teleconference: 202-991-0477/7939251#, September 19, 2018; 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

MEETING SUMMARY

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board (ELAB or Board) teleconference meeting was held on September 19, 2018. 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. Michael Delaney welcomed the members and guests to the meeting. He took roll of the members present and guests.

APPROVAL OF THE PRIOR MINUTES

Dr. Delaney asked whether any members had comments about the Board's August 2018 meeting minutes— no changes were suggested to the meeting minutes. The minutes were moved for approval and the motion was seconded. The Board unanimously approved the August meeting minutes.

OPENING REMARKS AND UPDATES FROM THE DFO

Dr. Thomas 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. We have put six names forward to be on the Board in October and the nomination package has been approved by the Administrator. The invitation letters still have yet to be signed by the Administrator, which could take a couple more weeks. This means that the new members may not be on the board by the October meeting.

This is also the last meeting for Dr. Mahesh Pujari, Dr. Dallas Wait, Dr. Deyuan (Kitty) Kong, Mr. Dallas Wait, and Mr. Elan Riser. There will be a thank you letter coming from the Administrator and the Agency thanking them very much for their service to ELAB.

Mr. Ralph Rodgers from Philadelphia Water gave a presentation on Online Sensors

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.

Selected Ion Monitoring (SIM)

After the August meeting, Dr. Delaney went back through the comments from EPA and sent a revised version of the SIM document to the task group. He has not heard back yet from them but he will contact them and try to get an update. He will have an update on that and hope to have a vote on the letter at the October ELAB meeting.

User-Generated Library Acceptance Criteria

Dr. Brian Buckley said that ELAB has worked through the EPA comments and the letter is ready to go. He sent the letter to everyone and got no response so hopefully we can vote on it, accept it, and send it out. Mr. Brad Meadows moved to vote on the letter and was seconded by Dr. Mahesh Pujari. The board unanimously approved the letter with minor edits as needed. Dr. Buckley will finalize it and get it over to EPA and will send the board the final letter.

Acrolein and Acrylonitrile

Dr. O'Farrell has suggested that Dr. Pujari work with EPA's Mr. Adrian Hanley on this topic.

PCB Congener Method

No updates on this topic other than the multi-lab validation study is going well according to Mr. Hanley.

Drinking Water Program Adoption of Recent Approved Methods

Ms. Debra Waller had to make small changes to the draft letter, "Drinking Water Program Adoption of Recent Approved Methods", and has since sent them to Dr. Delaney. This will be sent out to the Board for approval and we will vote on it during the October meeting.

Suggestions from ELAB Suggestion Box, New Orleans, LA, 2018 TNI/NEMC Conference

(NOTE: Ms. Waller's comments are in **bold**.)

Three comments were submitted by Ms. Carol Sukhn from the American University of Beirut, Lebanon:

- Environmental fate of old analytical instruments: This was not really a suggestion, more of a question. The comments related to the environmental issues found with disposing of dismantled instruments, the fact that parts are no longer available for the older instruments. **Not sure how ELAB can help with this situation.**

- Methylene chloride/Dichloromethane is being phased out for use. How will this affect the method testing that currently utilizes this for testing? **This may be related to commercial products like stripping or cleaning commercial products. Researching the EPA website, I could find nothing about a ban for the chemical for laboratory testing. This may be the old Freon issue, being banned from commercial products and allowing for an exception for its use as a lab reagent until that exception was ended and labs stopped using Freon.**
- How environmental decisions and laws in the US are affecting the rest of the world? How do they affect decisions made by the World Health Organization? **I am not sure how ELAB can assist with this situation.**

Mr. David Speis (retired, former laboratory director)

- “ELAB should broker a coalition of stakeholders to re-write a consolidated single volatile organic method consisting of the major USEPA program offices, TNI and the analytical community. He also suggests that words like “should” and “must” be omitted from the consolidated method.”

From The NELAC Institute (TNI):

1. Eliminate the approval of obsolete methods from Standard Methods and ASTM. There are reasons methods get revised. Any time EPA revises a method, they declare the old one obsolete. The assertion that this is too expensive for labs is bogus.

2. Ensure that all EPA methods have some level of validation. This is not done well for EPA methods in Part 136 or SW-846, despite a policy to that effect:

https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-01/documents/chemmethod_validity_policy.pdf

3. Remove the individual program requirements in methods that make it virtually impossible for a lab to use one technology to meet all method requirements.

600-Series Methods

Dr. Leibovitz is working on forming a task group to address this issue. Dr. Leibovitz will ask state assessors if they are having trouble putting these methods on-line.

OGWDW Guidance on Drinking Water MDLs

An EPA document on this topic was brought up at August face to face meeting by an audience member. It was noted that it was not clear if this document was EPA policy or guidance. Dr. Delaney thinks that this is an issue we should be pursuing but has asked the group what they think. Dr. Delaney, Ms. Sharon Mertens, and Ms. Waller will draft a write up of what the issue is, and then bring it to the group during the October meeting. Dr. O’Farrell will try to find someone at EPA to engage with on this issue.

Inactive Topics

1. Cyanide Methodology

No Current Updates.

2. Whole Effluent Toxicity PT Standards

ELAB is not really part of this discussion anymore. Dr. Leibovitz gave suggestions to TNI to consider regarding Quality Control. We will wait until we see what TNI says about EPAs response.

3. Drinking Water Certification Officer's Training Course

We got a detailed response back from EPA and it was distributed before the August meeting. This issue began in 2016 when the NELAC accreditation council sent a letter to EPA about the drinking water certification officer training program. Ms. Mertens believes there isn't anything else to pursue on this issue. Dr. Delaney will forward the letter to everyone and if anyone has anything they want to bring up about it please talk to Ms. Mertens.

4. Addressing Emerging contaminants

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

5. Interagency Data Quality Task Force/Data Quality Objective

Dr. Henry Leibovitz has written a draft with our recommendations and will bring it to the group at the next meeting to review.

6. In-Line/On-Line Monitoring

Mr. Michael Flournoy will contact Mr. Lemuel Walker at EPA to see if he wants to create a new request after he discusses what Mr. Ralph Rodgers presented today.

NEW TOPICS/ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Mr. Meadows brought up an issue regarding Fecal Coliform and E. coli testing and will contact Mr. Adrian Hanley before bringing it back up with the group.

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

WRAP-UP/SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

Dr. Delaney 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 17th of October.

CLOSING REMARKS/ADJOURNMENT

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

Attachment A

AGENDA
Teleconference Numbers 202-991-0477 / 7939251#
September 19, 2018
Webconference:
epawebconferencing.acms.com/ofarrell1/

- I. Call Meeting to Order Delaney
- II. Introduction of Board Members/Roll Call Board
- III. Approval of Minutes for Previous Meeting Delaney
- IV. Remarks and Updates from the DFO O'Farrell
- V. Presentation: Online Sensors at Philadelphia Water
by Ralph Rogers Flournoy/Delaney
- VI. Updates on Current Topics
 - a. Selected Ion Monitoring Delaney
 - b. User-Generated Library Acceptance Criteria..... Buckley
 - c. Acrolein and Acrylonitrile Preservation and pHPujari
 - d. Improving PCB Congener Method Option.....Pujari
 - e. Drinking Water Program Adoption of Recent Approved
MethodsWaller
 - f. Suggestions for ELAB from August Meeting Waller
 - g. 600-Series Methods Leibovitz
 - h. OGWDW guidance on drinking water MDLs Delaney
 - i. Inactive topics awaiting feedback/input:
 - Cyanide Methodology Delaney
 - Whole Effluent Toxicity proficiency study standards..... Leibovitz
 - Drinking Water Certification Officer's Training Course.....Mertens
 - In-Line/On-Line Monitoring..... Flournoy
 - Interagency Data Quality Task Force/Data Quality Objective
Process.....Leibovitz
 - Addressing Emerging Contaminants Mertens
- VII. New Topics/Issues for Consideration Delaney
- VIII. Wrap-Up/Summary of Action Items O'Farrell/Cawiezell/Delaney
- IX. Closing Remarks/Adjourn O'Farrell/Delaney

Attachment B**PARTICIPANTS LIST**

Board Members Attendance (Y/N)	Name	Affiliation
Y	Dr. Michael (Mike) Delaney (Chair)	Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) Representing: MWRA
Y	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	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	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)

Contractors and Guests Attendance (Y/N)	Name	Affiliation
Y	Mr. Thomas Cawiezell	Contractor at EPA
Y	Francoise Chauvin	NYCDEP
Y	Nick Ramos	
Y	Anand Mudambi	EPA

Attachment C

Action Items

Mike Delaney: Send Ralph Rogers contact information to the Board.

Mike Delaney: Check with the SIM task group members on any comments/changes to the draft letter.

Mahesh Pujari: Check with Adrian Hanley on how many samples it would take for EPA to evaluate pH 2 preservation for acrolein/acrylonitrile.

Mike Delaney: Send Deb's draft letter on approved drinking water methods to the Board.

Mike Delaney: Send the suggestion box items to the group.

Deb Waller, Sharon Mertens, and Mike Delaney: Write up any issues with the EPA policy/guidance on drinking water method detection limits document for Tom to informally discuss at EPA.

ELAB Board: Read the EPA response letter on Drinking Water Certification Officer training and decide if any further action is needed by ELAB.

Mike Flournoy: Get in touch with Lemuel Walker to see if there has been EPA progress on inline/online sensors.

Attachment D

I hereby certify that this is the final version of the minutes for the Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board Meeting held on September 19, 2018.

Michael F. Delaney

X

Dr. Michael Delaney
Chair

X

Thomas O'Farrell, Oct. 23, 2018

Dr. Thomas O'Farrell
Designated Federal Officer

