

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Monthly Teleconference: 202-991-0477/7939251#, November 21, 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 November 21, 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 called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for their time today right before the Thanksgiving holiday.

APPROVAL OF THE PRIOR MINUTES

Mr. Brad Meadows requested edits on the 'Future Topics' category in the October 2018 ELAB Meeting Minutes. Dr. Delaney said he would make those edits. Mr. Meadows motioned to approve the October 2018 ELAB Meeting Minutes and Dr. Jayesh Gandhi seconded the motion. Dr. Anderson abstained. The motion passed. Dr. Delaney stated that approval of the Minutes is contingent upon the proviso that Mr. Meadow's edits are addressed as well as correcting typos.

OPENING REMARKS AND UPDATES FROM THE DFO

Dr. Thomas O'Farrell welcomed everybody to today's meeting and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. The November 2019 ELAB meeting will not be on the day before Thanksgiving. Dr. O'Farrell thanked everyone for sending in their completed membership acceptance forms. For the face-to-face meeting in January in Milwaukee, WI, it would be ideal to have the meeting chair attending in-person. Dr. Delaney may not be able to attend, in which case the Vice Chair, Mr. Flournoy would try to attend, if able. Otherwise another chair will be identified. Dr. O'Farrell addressed Dr. Tom Sinks' role as the Director of the Office of the Science Advisor (OSA) who reports to EPA's Science Advisor, Dr. Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta.

TASK GROUP UPDATES ON CURRENT TOPICS

User-Generated Library Acceptance Criteria

ELAB received a letter back from Dr. Sinks and it has been distributed to everyone. Dr. Brian

Buckley plans to create a response and distribute it to the Committee and go from there. Dr. O'Farrell said the recent letter was reviewed in the Science Advisor's office and distributed to the Principal Deputy Assistant Administrators of the Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM) and the Office of Water (OW) and technical leads within those Offices for them to consider the recommendations as they apply to the methods under their purview. It was also sent to the EPA Science and Technology Policy Council, Scientific Support Panel, which has representatives from all EPA Offices and Regions. If Offices and Regions want to engage further, Dr. O'Farrell will get back to ELAB on that. It is likely still under review. This topic originated when some users of the methods with state-of-the-art instruments said that they cannot, in good conscience, degrade the performance of their instruments to meet the requirements of older methods. Mr. David Thal expressed interest in the history of this topic.

Acrolein and Acrylonitrile

This is a topic that Dr. Delaney and Dr. Mahesh Pujari have been trying to pursue. Data was sent to EPA and conversations were had with Dr. Adrian Hanley. ELAB received a response stating that there is insufficient data to change Part 136 preservation to allow pH 2 preservation for acrolein and acrylonitrile. Dr. Delaney and Dr. Pujari pursued this with Dr. Hanley and received a detailed email describing what kind of a study it would take to convince EPA of this and concluding with the question of whether this is something ELAB should be working on. Dr. Delaney distributed Dr. Hanley's email to everyone on the Board. From the commercial lab perspective, Mr. Meadows reiterated the complexity of preserving acrolein and acrylonitrile and thinks that ELAB should come to a resolution. Mr. Meadows sits on the Environmental Sciences Section (ESS) of the American Council of Independent Laboratories (ACIL) and offered to bring this topic up with them to see if there is any interest in ACIL membership participating in generating the data. Alternatively, perhaps the Independent Laboratories Institute would be interested in conducting the study. Dr. Delaney expressed his willingness to assist in writing a study plan to help facilitate the transition.

PCB Congener Method

Laboratories collecting wastewater samples for the multi-laboratory validation had just received the sample containers. They are collecting a large volume of a wide variety of wastewater matrices that will be then be homogenized, aliquoted, and ultimately sent out to the labs that are participating in the method validation. Dr. Delaney anticipates that this will be happening soon and, at the moment, is unsure of the timeframe given to the labs to analyze the samples, but sometime in early 2019, the data from the study should be available and if things go well, EPA would be proposing that method to be added to Part 136. Then it is likely to become the de facto PCB congener method for wastewater testing. Mr. David Thal said he has experience with this kind of sample collection and Dr. Delaney will send Mr. David Thal an email with Adrian Hanley's contact information if he wants to talk to him.

600-Series Methods

At the October 2018 ELAB Meeting, the formation of a task group was discussed to look at the new 600-Series Methods and identify current gaps. Most of the new members indicated that they were willing to think about joining the task group. Dr. Delaney inquired about who would like to participate in the task group. Dr. Delaney cited this as a great opportunity to get EPA's ear on

how to improve the new 600-Series Methods. Dr. Delaney, Ms. Crandall, Mr. Rich Gossett, Mr. Flournoy, and Mr. Thal agreed to participate on this task force with Dr. Leibovitz.

OGWDW Guidance on Drinking Water MDLs

Ms. Deb Waller, Ms. Sharon Mertens, and Dr. Delaney have been exchanging emails on this topic. The Drinking Water Guidance on MDLs was brought up at our August meeting by a member of the public who found the document to be confusing on whether it was guidance or policy, or not. Dr. Delaney would like to bring a letter to the December 2018 ELAB Meeting advising EPA on how they could improve the process of telling labs what they need to do. EPA does not normally regulate by guidance in the Drinking Water Program, but Dr. Delaney also was unclear whether his lab should be following it or not. A letter drafted by Ms. Waller, Ms. Mertens, and Dr. Delaney will be brought to the December 2018 ELAB Meeting.

Inactive Topics

a) Cyanide Methodology

There is no update for this topic. ELAB believes that EPA Drinking Water Program is working on a revision to its cyanide guidance on cyanide testing and drinking water.

b) Whole Effluent Toxicity PT Standards

There is no update for this topic. Since the last meeting, Dr. Delaney spoke with Ms. Teresa Norberg-King (ORD-NHEERL), who is EPA's expert on toxicity testing, and she is aware of the issue of to what extent the test conditions should be specified for the DMR-QA and other WET PT samples.

c) In-Line/On-Line Monitoring Interagency

This is no update for this topic and ELAB is awaiting on further guidance from EPA.

d) Addressing Emerging Contaminants

This is no update for this topic and ELAB is awaiting on further guidance from EPA.

e) Drinking Water Program Adoption of Recent Approved Methods

This letter has been sent to directly to OGWDW who will consider it and respond directly to ELAB. It was sent out a week and a half ago and a response is anticipated.

NEW TOPICS/ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

a) "Mercury Free" Analysis for Lead (Pb) and Copper (Cu) by Electrochemistry

Dr. Gandhi addressed the issue of lead and copper, along with other heavy metals, posing a huge issue for analysis, especially in the field. Classic electrochemistry methods involve a substantial amount of mercury-based detectors or mercury-based reagents, which both cause hazardous waste disposal issues. Metrohm USA has developed a mercury-free electrochemical system to mimic classical electrochemistry specifically designed for groundwater, drinking water, and surface water. This mercury-free system has been tested for about two years in the field to conduct analyses. Dr. Gandhi is seeking guidance on where he should apply this method and

how he should approach EPA for getting this method on their radar. Dr. Delaney responded by stating EPA had published guidance documents on alternative test procedures (ATPs). Dr. Buckley proposed that Dr. Gandhi discuss this method with EPA's Inorganic Methods Working Group first. This working group evaluates new techniques for potential incorporation in the CFR and everything else.

Mr. David Thal asked if ELAB could work on emerging contaminants.

Dr. O'Farrell was requested to reach out to OLEM regarding their efforts on PFAS testing in non-drinking water matrices and inquire about the work they are currently doing.

WRAP-UP/SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

Dr. Delaney announced he will put together the list of action items with Dr. O'Farrell.

CLOSING REMARKS/ADJOURNMENT

The December 2018 ELAB Meeting will be held on December 19, 2018 at 1:00 pm. Dr. Buckley moved to adjourn, Mr. Flournoy seconded, and the motion was passed. The meeting adjourned at 2:23 pm.

Attachment A

ELAB Meeting
AGENDA
Teleconference Numbers 202-991-0477 / 7939251#
November 21, 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. Updates on Current Topics
 - a. User-Generated Library Acceptance Criteria..... Buckley
 - b. Acrolein and Acrylonitrile Preservation and pH Delaney
 - c. Improving PCB Congener Method Option.....Delaney
 - d. 600-Series Methods Leibovitz
 - e. OGWDW guidance on drinking water MDLs Delaney
- VI. Inactive topics awaiting feedback/input:
 - a. Cyanide Methodology Delaney
 - b. Whole Effluent Toxicity proficiency study standards..... Leibovitz
 - c. In-Line/On-Line Monitoring..... Flournoy
 - d. Addressing Emerging Contaminants Mertens
 - e. Drinking Water Program Adoption of Recent Approved Methods Waller
 - f. Selected Ion Monitoring Delaney
- VI. New Topics/Issues for Consideration Delaney

"Mercury Free" analysis for Lead (Pb) and Copper (Cu) by
Electrochemistry

Gandhi

VII. Wrap-Up/Summary of Action
Items

O'Farrell/Delaney

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
Y	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	Dr. Francoise Chauvin	NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection Representing: NYCDEP
N	Dr. Deyuan (Kitty) Kong	Chevron Energy Technology Company

		Representing: Chevron
Y	Ms. Stacie Crandall	Hampton Roads Sanitation District Representing: HSRD
N	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.
N	Ms. Sharon Mertens	Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District Representing: The NELAC Institute
Y	Mr. Richard Gossett	PHYSIS Labs Representing: PHYSIS Labs
Y	Mr. David Thal	Environmental Standards Inc. Representing: Environmental Standards Inc.
Y	Dr. Jayesh Ghandi	Metrohm USA Representing: Metrohm USA
N	Ms. Debra (Deb) Waller	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Representing: State

		Government—NJDEP
Y	Mr. Ray Frederici	TestAmerica Representing: TestAmerica

PARTICIPANTS LIST (CONT)

Contractors and Guests Attendance (Y/N)	Name	Affiliation
Y	Ms. Manisha Kumar	Contractor at EPA
Y	Mr. Dan Havallo	First Energy
Y	Ms. Patricia Carvajal	San Antonio River Authority

Attachment C

Action Items

1. User-Generated Library Acceptance Criteria: waiting on additional input from EPA.
2. Universal validation of analytical methods for new instrumentation and citizen science: Dr. Delaney will send documents to Dr. Buckley.
3. Acrolein and Acrylonitrile: Mr. Meadows will reach out to ACIL and ILI about their interest in a study to change the preservation criteria for acrolein and acrylonitrile.
4. PCB Congener Method: Dr. Delaney will send the recent information on the PCB Congener Method samples to Mr. Thal
5. 600-Series Methods: Dr. Leibovitz will be asked to set up a task group meeting to discuss changes to the 600-Series Methods.
6. OGWDW Guidance on Drinking Water MDLs: Dr. Delaney will continue to engage in discussion with Ms. Mertens and Ms. Waller.
7. New Topics: Dr. Buckley will provide Dr. Gandhi with contact information for the Inorganic Methods Working Group.
8. Dr. O'Farrell will check with OLEM regarding work that EPA is doing on PFAS testing of non-water matrices. Mr. Meadows will forward the technical bulletin on that topic.
9. Dr. O'Farrell and Dr. Delaney will work on a PowerPoint presentation for the January 2019 ELAB Meeting and the PowerPoint will be discussed at the December 2018 ELAB Meeting.

Attachment D

I hereby certify that this is the final version of the minutes for the Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board Meeting held on November 21, 2018.

Michael P. Delaney

Thomas O'Farrell

X

Dr. Michael Delaney
Chair

X

Dr. Thomas O'Farrell
Designated Federal Officer

