

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Monthly Teleconference: 202-991-0477/7939251#, December 19, 2018, 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 December 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 called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF THE PRIOR MINUTES

Dr. Delaney motioned to approve the November minutes, and Ms. Deb Waller seconded the motion. The November minutes were approved unanimously.

OPENING REMARKS AND UPDATES FROM THE DFO

Dr. Tom O'Farrell discussed the ELAB Charter as it relates to the frequency of meetings. The Charter requires approximately 12 meetings a year. In the interest of conserving resources, it is acceptable to skip monthly meetings when either attendance is low, or the agenda consists entirely of updates that may be done by e-mail. Next, Dr. O'Farrell introduced the topic of attendance for the January face-to-face meeting in Milwaukee, WI. hereafter referred to as the January meeting. He asked if it was determined who will Chair the meeting.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE JANUARY FACE TO FACE MEETING

Dr. Delaney verified attendance and mode of attendance for the January meeting:

- Those attending the meeting in-person are: Dr. Jayesh Gandhi, Dr. O'Farrell, Ms. Deb Waller, Mr. Michael Flournoy (maybe), Ms. Stacie Crandall, Ms. Sharon Mertens, and Mr. Brad Meadows
- Those attending the January meeting via telephone are: Dr. Francoise Chauvin, Dr. Deyuan (Kitty) Kong, Mr. Richard Gossett, and Mr. David Thal.
- Those not attending the meeting are: Dr. Kim Anderson.

- Lastly, the January meeting attendance status is uncertain for: Dr. Henry Leibovitz, Mr. Ray Frederici, and Dr. Brian Buckley.

Dr. Delaney decided there will be a forum for the meeting, and then determined a Chair. Mr. Michael Flournoy declined chairing the January meeting. Dr. Delaney's second choice for meeting Chair is Dr. Henry Leibovitz, who was not in attendance at the December ELAB meeting nor has previously communicated his ability to attend the January meeting. Ms. Debra (Deb) Waller volunteered to chair the meeting if Dr. Henry Leibovitz declines.

Dr. O'Farrell said the January meeting will be recorded, and the minutes will be produced as usual. He also confirmed that the time for the January meeting will be 1:30 central time/2:30 eastern time. Ms. Sharon Mertens states that there will be a break at 3 pm central time. Dr. Delaney would like to address most topics for the January meeting in the 90 minutes before the break, and before attendance dwindles. Everyone concurred that someone attending the January meeting needs to make sure everything is ready prior to the presentation time.

Dr. Delaney had tentatively assigned leaders to discuss slide topics for the January meeting in a previous meeting. Dr. O'Farrell is responsible for Updates from the DFO. Next, Dr. Delaney will talk about activities since August. This will be followed with the task group topics.

Dr. Delaney reviewed the presentation slides for the January ELAB meeting.

TASK GROUP UPDATES ON CURRENT TOPICS

User-Generated Mass Spectral Library Acceptance Criteria

Dr. Delaney will talk with Dr. Brian Buckley to verify his attendance at the January meeting.

A letter was sent to the EPA, and ELAB is awaiting further guidance on this topic. Dr. O'Farrell confirmed that there is currently one response, and that he will wait to release all responses he receives until after the holidays.

Acrolein and Acrylonitrile

Prior to the December ELAB meeting, Mr. Brad Meadows agreed to check with the American Council of Independent Laboratories (ACIL) if there was interest in conducting a study on this topic. Dr. Delaney asked Mr. Meadows for an update and to discuss this topic at the January meeting.

Mr. Meadows said that ACI ESS will discuss this topic on December 20, and he agreed to provide an update at the January meeting.

PCB Congener Method

Multi-lab studies are in progress. Results will be available in 2019. Dr. Delaney inquired whether Mr. Adrian Hanley will attend the January meeting. If so, Mr. Adrian Hanley will be asked to discuss this topic.

600-Series Methods

Dr. Delaney will ask Dr. Leibovitz for a brief update at the January meeting. Dr. Leibovitz may have convened a task group meeting on this subject. A brief update is needed at the January meeting.

OGWDW Guidance on Drinking Water MDLs

Ms. Waller will present this topic at the January meeting. The final letter to EPA on this topic might be ready to vote on at the February ELAB meeting.

Inactive Topics

a) Cyanide Methodology

There is no update for this topic.

b) Whole Effluent Toxicity PT Standards

Dr. Delaney e-mailed Dr. Leibovitz regarding this topic on Dec. 19 and is awaiting a reply. Dr. Delaney would like to invite someone from the TNI WET committee and an EPA representative from the DMRQA program to discuss the purpose of PT and the merits of how PT samples are tested at a future ELAB meeting. There is no update for this topic.

c) In-Line/On-Line Monitoring Interagency

There is no update for this topic.

d) Addressing Emerging Contaminants

There is no update for this topic.

There was a discussion about whether ELAB should have a public discussion on PFOS/PFAS at the January in person meeting. Ms. Merten's slide on emerging contaminants will ask for input from the public on this topic.

EPA Method 537.1 & PFAS

ELAB received an e-mail regarding EPA method 537.1, regarding PFAS chemicals. Ms. Waller asked Ms. Mertens if we should let people know about the email and about ELAB's plans to reconvene a working group on Emerging Contaminants. Ms. Mertens replied that we should wait for EPA guidance, as this is a broad topic and the guidance will focus the discussion. Dr. Delaney stated that neither the labs nor the EPA know what methods will be required for different programs and they are uncertain of how to prepare. Mr. Flournoy stated that we should discuss this topic at the January meeting and ask the community for input, and Ms. Waller agreed adding that ELAB should tell the public about the committee that has been formed and take suggestions from the public. Ms. Mertens replied that there is not an active Emerging

Contaminants committee because they decided that they needed more direction. The committee has never met, and some of the members may have left.

Next, Dr. Delaney led a discussion on what the EPA should be doing regarding PFAS. Mr. Flournoy believes that the EPA needs to be involved in a multi-lab validation for proper management of PFAS chemicals. Ms. Mertens discussed how levels of concern and limits vary by state, and the potential impact this will have. Ideally, the EPA should prevent their being many different state-level testing methods, unless they are based on good science.

Dr. Delaney shifted the discussion to what ELAB should be doing regarding PFAS. Mr. Thal stated that this is difficult to determine in the absence of advisory at the national level. Specifically, we need a regulatory framework covering methods, limits, and permitting of these chemicals. The framework should also cover determining when the water or soil is clean enough. Only some of the chemicals addressed have MDLs. Likewise, Ms. Mertens is interested in the regulatory framework. She will ask the public at the January meeting what gaps ELAB could highlight for EPA to address.

Everyone in ELAB was forwarded a letter from Ms. Christina Langlois-Miller regarding an intra-agency method workgroup on PFAS method development for multiple matrices. The letter states: Validated method 8327 will be released early 2019, and multi-lab validation for 8328 will be expected mid-2019. Ms. Waller noticed that tissue testing for PFAS is not addressed in the letter. Dr. Delaney is interested in what the EPA is doing regarding the biological tissue testing. Mr. Thal replied that fish tissue testing is covered by EPA's Office of Water Methods and gives method 1613 and 1668 as examples. Mr. Flournoy, Ms. Mertens, and Dr. O'Farrell agreed that these methods have already been validated. Ms. Mertens is a member of the Wisconsin lab advisory board and informed everyone that the Wisconsin State Board of Hygiene developed a method that is not yet finalized. Mr. Thal informed everyone that the EPA Office of Water typically accepts methods that can be validated by an ASTM procedure. Dr. Gandhi is a member of the ASTM D19 Water Committee and is aware of a validated ASTM method D7979 for PFOS/PFAS in drinking water that the EPA has not accepted because it was not multi-lab validated.

e) Drinking Water Program Adoption of Recent Approved Methods

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

f) Selected Ion Monitoring

There is no update on this topic. ELAB is awaiting any comments from EPA on its recent letter.

NEW TOPICS/ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

a) New ELAB Charter for 2019

Dr. O'Farrell addressed questions about a new 2019 ELAB charter.

There was a discussion about EPA following its policy for method validation. Dr. Delaney is going to review the policy for the next meeting.

WRAP-UP/SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

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

Slides for the January meeting are due January 15th. Dr. Delaney and Dr. O'Farrell will distribute final presentation to ELAB near January 21st.

CLOSING REMARKS/ADJOURNMENT

The January 2019 ELAB Meeting will be held on January 28, 2019 at 1:30 pm Central Time. Brad Meadows moved to adjourn, and it was passed. The meeting adjourned around 2 pm.

Attachment A

AGENDA

Teleconference Numbers 202-991-0477 / 7939251#

December 19, 2018

Webconference: epawebconferencing.acms.com/ofarrel/1/

- 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. Preparations for the Face-to-Face Meeting Delaney
- VI. Updates on Current Topics
 - a. User-Generated Library Acceptance Criteria..... Buckley
 - b. Acrolein and Acrylonitrile Preservation and pH..... Delaney
 - c. Improved PCB Congener MethodDelaney
 - d. 600-Series Methods Leibovitz
 - e. OGWDW Guidance on Drinking Water MDLs Delaney

 - f. Inactive topics awaiting feedback/input:
 - Cyanide Methodology Delaney
 - Whole Effluent Toxicity proficiency study standards..... Leibovitz
 - In-Line/On-Line Monitoring..... Flournoy
 - Addressing Emerging Contaminants Mertens
 - Drinking Water Program Adoption of Recent Approved
Methods Waller
 - Selected Ion Monitoring Delaney
- VII. New Topics/Issues for Consideration Delaney
- VIII. Wrap-Up/Summary of Action Items O'Farrell/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
Y	Dr. Kim Anderson	Oregon State University Representing: Academia-Oregon State University
N	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
Y	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.
Y	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 Gandhi	Metrohm USA Representing: Metrohm USA
Y	Ms. Debra (Deb) Waller	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Representing: State

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

PARTICIPANTS LIST (CONT)

Contractors and Guests Attendance (Y/N)	Name	Affiliation
Y	Ms. Alexis Bryant	Contractor at EPA

Attachment C

Action Items

1. Topic leaders should update their slides and send to Tom and Mike D. by 1/15/19. They will consolidate and send the final version for review by 1/21/19. Tom will send the final slides to TNI and bring a backup thumb drive to the meeting on 1/28/19.
2. Mike D. will check with Brian and Henry to see if they will attend the January meeting, confirm that they will present their topics, and ask them to update their slides.
3. Mike D. will check with Henry to see if he will attend the January meeting in person and if he is willing to chair the meeting. If not, Deb or Sharon will chair the meeting.
4. Tom will check with Adrian Hanley to see if he is attending the January meeting and if he is willing to give an update on the PCB congener method.
5. Brad will follow up with ACIL ESS on a possible acrolein/acrylonitrile wastewater VOA preservation study.
6. Mike D. will find the EPA FEM guidance on method validation and will send it to the members to see if this is good framework for method validation.
7. Tom will confirm the voting by email process so that official votes can be taken when a meeting isn't possible/necessary.

Attachment D

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

Michael F. Delaney

X

Dr. Michael Delaney
Chair

X *Thomas O'Farrell, 2/7/19*

Dr. Thomas O'Farrell
Designated Federal Officer

