

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Monthly Teleconference: 202-991-0477/7939251#, February 20, 2019; 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 February 20, 2019. 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. Delaney called the meeting to order and called roll.

APPROVAL OF THE PRIOR MINUTES

Dr. Jayesh Ghandi motioned to approve the December 2018 meeting minutes. Ms. Sharon Mertens seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

Mr. Brad Meadows motioned to approve the January 2019 meeting minutes. Dr. Francoise Chauvin seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

OPENING REMARKS AND UPDATES FROM THE DFO

Dr. Tom O'Farrell informed the Board that Mr. Mike Flournoy is the new ELAB Chair. ELAB members should send nominations for the Vice Chair position to Dr. O'Farrell by March 1.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Environmental Samples: Challenges and Opportunities for Environmental laboratories. Dr. Jennifer Field, Oregon State University. Dr. Field gave an overview of the topic highlighting the magnitude of the analytical challenge, the types of sophisticated instrumentation needed, and how these measurements are used to characterize sources of human and ecosystem exposure.

TASK GROUP UPDATES ON CURRENT TOPICS

User-Generated Mass Spectral Library Acceptance Criteria

OW and OLEM have provided comments and OLEM's final comments were received this morning in memo form. OLEM also provided comments on the SIM letter. Dr. O'Farrell has drafted a letter back to ELAB summarizing the comments that will be signed by the Science Advisor's Office.

Acrolein and Acrylonitrile Preservation

Mr. Meadows is working with the ACIL ESS committee to recruit labs for a study to address Acrolein and Acrylonitrile pH preservation in wastewater samples.

600-Series Methods

Dr. Delaney, Mr. Richard Gossett, Mr. Frederici, Dr. Chauvin, and Mr. Thal will be on the work group. Dr. Leibovitz will send out invitations for the first meeting.

OGWDW Guidance on Drinking Water MDLs

A draft letter to EPA on this topic has been prepared. Dr. Delaney asked if the letter needs further editing. The letter will be discussed further at the next meeting. Mr. Adrian Hanley said the wastewater MUR will be ready by the end of the year.

Inactive Topics

a) Improved PCB Congener Method

Mr. Hanley stated that 12 labs are on the current multi-lab validation study. It will be several months before all the results are in and several months after that will be needed to process and review the results.

b) Whole Effluent Toxicity PT Standards

Mr. Greg Savitske (EPA) is willing talk with the ELAB task group and the NELAC Institute (TNI) on this topic in April. There will be an attempt to schedule a meeting.

c) In-Line/On-Line Monitoring

There are no updates on this topic.

d) Addressing Emerging Contaminants

There are no updates on this topic. Ms. Mertens will address any comments or suggestions on this topic.

e) Drinking Water Program Adoption of Recently Approved Methods

OW responded to ELAB's letter on February 7th, and ELAB will probably respond with a "Thank You" letter. Anyone with comments should express them to ELAB.

NEW TOPICS/ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

a) What does the laboratory community want ELAB to work on?

Mr. Meadows suggested that EPA and TNI inform attendees of the NEMC meeting in August that ELAB will be taking suggestions there.

b) Is EPA following its policy and guidance on method validation?

Dr. Delaney reviewed the chemical method validation policy and guidance that EPA developed. The documents appear to be a reasonable approach to validation, including a multi-lab study and peer review. ELAB should consider sending EPA a letter asking that this approach be followed for new EPA methods. However, the EPA policy on validation does not cover method revision. Mr. Hanley indicated the recent 600-series revisions had no multi-lab validation.

c) Should EPA give more specific guidance on sets of data for initial demonstrations of capability and MDL studies? (Chauvin)

Dr. Chauvin brought up the topic of guidance on how to address QC failures in Initial Demonstration of Capability (IDOC) studies for multi-analyte methods. For example, the newer EPA Drinking Water methods include a new requirement to determine the prediction interval of result (PIR) at the reporting limit. As causes of failures can be diverse (known technical issue that affects only the analysis of one sample (e.g. a missed autosampler injection), statistical failures, "bad actors"), it would be prudent for EPA to provide guidance. This would be consistent with recently issued documents (40 CFR, Part 136 Appendix B, TNI Standard 2016) that provide guidance on how to address batch QC failures.

Mr. Frederici suggested this topic be addressed by TNI, instead of EPA. ELAB could send a letter to EPA requesting specific guidance on the sets of data for initial demonstrations of their capability and MDL studies.

WRAP-UP/SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

Dr. Delaney and Dr. O'Farrell reviewed the list of action items.

CLOSING REMARKS/ADJOURNMENT

The March 2019 ELAB Meeting will be held on March 20, 2019 at 1 pm Eastern.

Mr. Frederici moved to adjourn, Dr. Leibovitz seconded, and it was passed.

Attachment A

AGENDA

Teleconference Numbers 202-991-0477 / 7939251#

February 20, 2019

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 Meetings Delaney
- IV. Remarks and Updates from the DFO O'Farrell
- V. Special Presentation: Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Environmental Samples: Challenges and Opportunities for Environmental laboratories. Dr. Jennifer Field, Oregon State University
- VI. Updates on Current Topics
 - a. User-Generated Library Acceptance Criteria..... Buckley
 - b. Acrolein and Acrylonitrile Preservation and pH..... Meadows
 - c. 600-Series Methods Leibovitz
 - d. OGWDW Guidance on Drinking Water MDLs Delaney
 - f. Inactive topics awaiting feedback/input:
 - Improved PCB Congener Method 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
- VII. New Topics/Issues for Consideration Delaney

What does the Laboratory community want ELAB to work on? (Waller)

Is EPA following its policy and guidance on method validation? (Delaney)

Should EPA give more specific guidance on sets of data for initial demonstrations of capability and MDL studies? (Chauvin)
- 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
N	Mr. Michael Flourney (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
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	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
N	Ms. Alexis Bryant	Contractor at EPA
Y	Mr. Adrian Hanley	EPA, OW
Y	Ms. Christina Langlois-Miller	EPA, OLEM
Y	Ms. Penny Shamblin	Hunton, Andrews, Kurth
Y	Mr. Jeff Loewe	NiSource

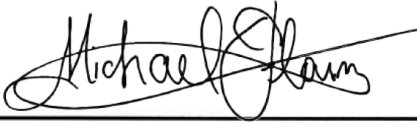
Attachment C

Action Items

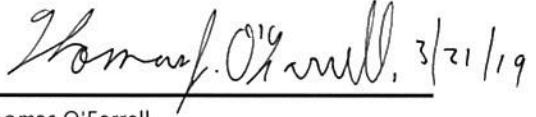
1. Dr. O'Farrell and Dr. Delaney will finalize the December and January minutes.
2. Dr. O'Farrell will send a ballot for Vice Chair on 3/1. Members were encouraged to submit any additional nominees.
3. Dr. Delaney will send a thank you note to Dr. Field. Members are reminded not to share her slides.
4. Dr. Delaney will send comments and a cover letter on MS Libraries and SIM.
5. Mr. Meadows will continue to engage with ACIL on an Acrolein preservation study. The study plan should be reviewed by Adrian Hanley.
6. Dr. Leibovitz will convene a meeting of the 600 Series Methods task group. This will include Mr. Gossett, Mr. Frederici, Dr. Ghandi, Dr. Chauvin, and Dr. Delaney.
7. Ms. Waller, Ms. Mertens, and Dr. Delaney will submit a final draft letter on the EPA DW MDL document. Members are encouraged to submit any comments on the circulated draft.
8. Congener PCB Method can be taken off the next agenda. EPA won't have results until late 2019.
9. Dr. Delaney will invite Greg Savitske, TNI, to a WET PT task group meeting in April along with Ms. Crandell and Dr. Leibovitz.
10. Ms. Waller will draft a thank you letter to Dan Hautman on EPA's DW approved methods letter.
11. Dr. O'Farrell, Dr. Delaney, Mr. Meadows and Ms. Mertens will ask the NEMC technical program organizer, Jerry Parr, and Lara Phelps how to advertise the August ELAB meeting at NEMC to increase attendance by the public.
12. Dr. Chauvin will draft a letter on DW IDOC/MDL/MRL data sets.

Attachment D

I hereby certify that this is the final version of the minutes for the Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board Meeting held on Feb. 20, 2019.

X 

Michael Flournov
Chair

X 

Dr. Thomas O'Farrell
Designated Federal Officer

