

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Monthly Teleconference: 202-991-0477/7939251#, April 17, 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 April 17, 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

Mr. Mike Flournoy called the meeting to order and called roll.

APPROVAL OF THE PRIOR MINUTES

Ms. Sharon Mertens suggested edits. Mr. Mike Flournoy motioned to approve the March 2019 meeting minutes, with the proposed edits, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

OPENING REMARKS AND UPDATES FROM THE DFO

During Dr. Tom O'Farrell's absence, Mr. Greg Susanke served as the acting DFO. Mr. Susanke greeted the group, and informed ELAB that he would relay any questions and concerns to Dr. O'Farrell when he returns on Monday.

TASK GROUP UPDATES ON CURRENT TOPICS

User-Generated Mass Spectral Library Acceptance Criteria

Dr. Brian Buckley recommended publishing an excerpt from the March 2019 ELAB meeting minutes and the response letter from EPA on the ELAB website or a secondary letter with ELAB's concerns with EPA's response. ELAB agreed to create a secondary letter which will include part of the March 2019 ELAB meeting minutes to state ELAB's concerns with EPA's response.

Acrolein and Acrylonitrile Preservation

Mr. Brad Meadows drafted a letter for ACIL members and has received feedback from the ESS that letter is approved for distribution. The ESS will further discuss the letter in an upcoming

meeting.

Mr. Meadows confirmed Ms. Mertens and Dr. Michael Delaney that the preservation method applies to acrolein or both acrolein and acrylonitrile. Ms. Mertens read an excerpt from footnote 10, table 2, 136.3: “pH adjustment is not required if acrolein will not be measured. Samples for acrolein not needing pH adjustment must be analyzed within 3 days of sampling.” Mr. Meadows responded that the footnote does not state whether acrylonitrile is stable at pH of 2. Not requiring a pH adjustment creates a problem for labs testing for both parameters that desire to use a standard preservation of less than 2.

Next, Mr. Meadows hosted a discussion about the role of ELAB and the ACIL in the study. He initially proposed forming a task group to design the study. Dr. Delaney inquired whether ACIL should be designing study, instead of ELAB. Ms. Waller asked if the ELAB charter authorizes ELAB to design studies. Ms. Waller and Ms. Mertens expressed the need for the study to be reviewed and need for clear leadership and EPA involvement throughout the process. There was a consensus that feedback is needed from Dr. O’Farrell regarding the role of ELAB. Mr. Meadows asked whether this feedback is needed before finalizing the letter. Ms. Mertens believes the feedback is necessary before any data is collected. Mr. Meadows clarified his question by stating that the intent of the letter is only to create of list of possible labs that would participate in the study. The next proposal was for ACIL to complete the study, and for ELAB to advise them to involve EPA in the design process. Ms. Mertens disagrees, stating ELAB should advise the EPA to sponsor a study, as advising the EPA is ELAB’s responsibility. Dr. Delaney volunteered to work with ACIL and Adrian Hanley (EPA) to develop the study. Mr. Susanke agreed to ask Dr. O’Farrell what extent can ELAB be involved with the ACIL study. Lastly, the question of whether ACIL is willing to do the study was addressed. Mr. Meadows responded that ACIL has only agreed to allow ELAB to solicit labs to participants through the letter. They have not agreed to do the study, but neither were they asked. Mr. Meadows will discuss this issue at the ACIL ESS meeting.

600-Series Methods

Dr. Delaney presented this topic on behalf of Dr. Henry Leibovitz (absent). Dr. Leibovitz e-mailed ELAB that the task group meeting was canceled, and that he planned to reschedule before the next board meeting. Dr. Delaney has been reviewing responses to comments and collecting input from those with issues with the current 600 series method. The concerns raised by Ms. Stacie Crandall are shared by many of those commenting on the method. Dr. Delaney has been tabulating responses that the EPA does not agree with and will present the results at the next task group meeting.

OGWDW Guidance on Drinking Water MDLs

Dr. Delaney, Ms. Mertens, and Ms. Waller drafted a letter on drinking water MDLs and shared it with ELAB. The letter discusses how the EPA distributed this guidance to regions and states but has not released the guidance publicly, which resulted in some confusion. The letter asks the EPA to be more transparent by releasing guidances publicly. Dr. Delaney proposed that everyone review the letter, and if there are no additional edits or comments, that everyone vote. Ms. Mertens suggested a vote by e-mail, because of the absences from the meeting, and everyone

was in favor.

IDOC Requirements

Dr. Delaney presented this topic on behalf of Dr. Francoise Chauvin. Dr. Chauvin distributed a letter to ELAB regarding imperfect IDOC data. Dr. Delaney proposed a vote by e-mail, if there are no questions or comments. Ms. Waller raised concerns about the letter referencing a 2016 policy that does not take effect until 2020. She asked if the letter should include references to the 2009 policy, if they are identical. Ms. Mertens stated there is no issue, and that the answer depends on the state. Dr. Delaney concluded the discussion, with everyone agreeing to vote by e-mail.

Inactive Topics

a) Whole Effluent Toxicity PT Standards

Dr. Delaney contacted Greg Savitske via e-mail to schedule a meeting about PT samples. To date, there have been no replies, and Dr. Delaney will reach out again via telephone. Mr. Flournoy will move this topic to active once a meeting has been schedule.

b) In-Line/On-Line Monitoring

Mr. Flournoy will remove this from the inactive list, because there are no further actions for ELAB to take.

c) Addressing Emerging Contaminants

There are no updates on this topic.

d) Drinking Water Program Adoption of Recently Approved Methods

There are no updates on this topic. ELAB will send a “thank you” e-mail.

NEW TOPICS/ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Ms. Waller announced open registration for the summer “NEMC.”

Mr. Meadows announced a request from Scott Siders for ELAB to address the EPA Office of Groundwater and Drinking Water’s position on method flexibility. There are concerns about the flexibility written into the method and how EPA officers are enforcing it. Mr. Meadows will distribute the letter to ELAB, so ELAB can decide at the next meeting if this is a topic ELAB will address.

Mr. Flournoy believes PFAS might be new topic in the future. Ms. Mertens that she expected to bring Proficiency Test samples for PFAS to a future ELAB meeting.

WRAP-UP/SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

1. Tom O'Farrell – Give guidance on the extent ELAB can be involved in a study by the ACIL to address acrolein and acrylonitrile pH preservation.
2. Mike Flournoy – Send final letter to EPA addressing OW guidance on Drinking Water MDLs to the Board for voting.
3. Mike Flournoy – Send final letter to EPA addressing IDOC requirements to the Board for voting.
4. Brad Meadows – Forward email to Board from stakeholder regarding the confusion between States and EPA on drinking water method flexibility. ELAB may want to address this topic.

CLOSING REMARKS/ADJOURNMENT

The May 2019 ELAB Meeting will be held on May 15, 2019 at 1 pm Eastern.

Mr. Flournoy moved to adjourn at 2:02 p.m., and it was passed.

Attachment A

AGENDA
Teleconference Numbers 202-991-0477 / 7939251#
April 17, 2019
Webconference:
epawebconferencing.acms.com/ofarrell1/

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|-------|---|----------------------|
| I. | Call Meeting to Order | Flournoy |
| II. | Introduction of Board Members/Roll Call | Board |
| III. | Approval of Minutes for Previous Meetings | Flournoy |
| IV. | Remarks and Updates from the DFO | Susanke (Acting DFO) |
| 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 |
| | e. IDOC requirements..... | Chauvin |
| | f. Inactive topics awaiting feedback/input: | |
| | ▪ Whole Effluent Toxicity proficiency study standards
(is this back to active?)..... | Delaney |
| | ▪ 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 | Flournoy |
| | What does the Laboratory community want ELAB to work on? (Waller) | |
| VIII. | Wrap-Up/Summary of Action Items | Susanke/Flournoy |
| IX. | Closing Remarks/Adjourn | Susanke/ Flournoy |

Attachment B**PARTICIPANTS LIST**

Board Members Attendance (Y/N)	Name	Affiliation
Y	Dr. Michael (Mike) Delaney	Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) Representing: MWRA
Y	Mr. Michael Flournoy (Chair)	Eurofins Environment Testing USA Representing: American Council of Independent Laboratories
N	Dr. Thomas O'Farrell (DFO) <i>Greg Susanke acted as DFO</i>	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
N	Dr. Francoise Chauvin	NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection Representing: NYCDEP
N	Dr. Deyuan (Kitty) Kong	Chevron Energy Technology Company

		Representing: Chevron
N	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 (Vice Chair)	Babcock Laboratories, Inc. Representing: Commercial Laboratory— Babcock Laboratories, Inc.
Y	Ms. Sharon Mertens	Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District Representing: The NELAC Institute
N	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
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	Mr. Greg Susanke	EPA, Acting DFO
Y	Ms. Alexis Bryant	EPA
Y	Mr. Penny Shamblin	Hunton, Andrews, Kurth

Attachment C

Action Items

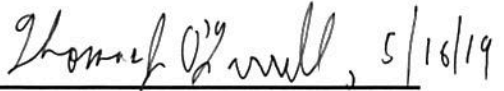
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Attachment D

I hereby certify that this is the final version of the minutes for the Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board Meeting held on April 17, 2019.

X 

Mr. Michael Flournoy
Chair

X 

Dr. Thomas O'Farrell
Designated Federal Officer