

TNI Board of Directors Meeting Summary February 11, 2026

ROLL CALL

| Directors | Present | Staff | Present |
|-------------------|---------|------------------|---------|
| Aaren Alger | X | Paul Junio | X |
| Steve Arms | X | Jerry Parr | X |
| Justin Brown | X | Ilona Taunton | X |
| Kristin Brown | X | Janice Wlodarski | X |
| Robin Cook | X | Bob Wyeth | X |
| Maria Friedman | X | | |
| Susan Jackson | X | | |
| Jessica Jensen | | | |
| William Lipps | X | | |
| Harold Longbaugh | X | | |
| Judy Morgan | X | | |
| Prem Parmar | X | | |
| Patsy Root | X | | |
| Nick Slawson | X | | |
| Valerie Slaven | X | | |
| Alfredo Sotomayor | X | | |
| Tracy Szerszen | | | |
| Past Chair | | | |
| Sharon Mertens | X | | |

AGENDA

1.0 Review of Agenda and Consent Agenda

Agenda approved: 2/11/2026

Consent Agenda approved: 2/11/2026

2.0 Board Election Results

The Board election closed on February 9. Board members who have been re-elected include:

- Aaron Algiers
- Justin Brown
- Kristin Brown
- Susan Jackson
- Patsy Root

New members include Stephanie Rippeon, A2LA, and Michelle Wade, Wade Consulting Services.

This is Nick's last meeting on the board.

3.0 Names and Acronyms of TNI Programs, Committees, ABs, and Standards and SOP 1-132

Susan Jackson asked the Policy committee to look into a consistent way of establishing acronyms for TNI committees, especially with the use of EC to mean either an Executive Committee or Expert Committee, with or without a space in front of EC. Ilona supported this and indicated a similar problem with the use of AB.

The committee initiated a general discussion on the topic and quickly decided EC should be the acronym for an Executive Committee with a space before the letters and EC should not be used for Expert Committees. That quickly led to a discussion of short names for committees. The committee decided to use a short descriptive term, or for committees with three words or more, an acronym. Jerry then shared the current organizational chart for the committee to review. Based on the general rules above, LASEC will be renamed NELAP EC.

The committee then moved onto the AB issue. We currently have NELAP AB, NEFAP AB, PTPA, and NGAB, with the latter being used for environmental laboratories accredited by NGABs. The committee recommended that PTPA needs to be changed to PTP AB.

The NGAB acronym has specific issues since the term has no underlying program. After extensive discussion, the Board decided to retain the acronym NGAB for non-governmental accreditation bodies accrediting environmental laboratories.

With all of these changes, the committee looked for a place to codify this proposal and decided SOP 1-132, Formation of TNI Committees and Task Forces, was the best place. Accordingly, a new section 5.4 was added with this language:

5.4 Naming convention for committees and programs

5.4.1. The Committee name clearly reflects the mission of the committee.

5.4.2 Expert Committees names may be shortened in official document such as committee minutes or conference programs. For example, the Microbiology Expert Committee is known as Microbiology. Committees that have 3 or more words in the committee name may use an acronym. Other committees should not use acronyms in official documents.

Note: Expert Committees do not use the term "EC" to avoid confusion with the Executive Committees.

5.4.3 Executive Committees are named after the program, as defined in the By-Laws. They are referenced as "Program Name Acronym" followed by a space then "EC." For example, the Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee is PTP EC.

Note: The Laboratory Accreditation System Executive Committee (Formerly LASEC) is now named NELAP EC.

5.4.5 Accreditation bodies are referenced as "Program Name Acronym" followed by a space then "AB," except for non-Governmental bodies that accredit laboratories, which are referenced as Non-Government Laboratory Accreditation Partner Accreditation Body or an NGLAP AB.

Motion to Approve changes to SOP 1-132:

Motion to Approve: Patsy Root
Second: Robin Cook
Approved: Unanimous
Abstain: Aaren Alger

Information will be posted on the website explaining the Changes. There will also be an article included in the Spring Newsletter. Conforming changes will need to be made to several other documents and the website.

Attachment 2 provides the new organizational chart.

In an unrelated action, Paul Junio pointed out a similar issue with the naming of the environmental laboratory standard. Volume 1 is titled *Management and Technical Requirements for Laboratories Performing Environmental Analysis*. The modules are then titled as shown below.

- Module 1: Proficiency Testing
- Module 2: Quality Systems General Requirements
- Module 3: Quality Systems for Asbestos Testing
- Module 4: Quality Systems for Chemical Testing
- Module 5: Quality Systems for Microbiological Testing
- Module 6: Quality Systems for Radiochemical Testing
- Module 7: Quality Systems for Toxicity Testing

Paul suggested they be renamed as follows.

- Module 1: Requirements for Proficiency Testing
- Module 2: Quality Management System Requirements
- Module 3: Requirements for Asbestos Testing
- Module 4: Requirements for Chemical Testing
- Module 5: Requirements for Microbiological Testing
- Module 6: Requirements for Radiochemical Testing
- Module 7: Requirements for Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing

Changes to the module titles will only take place for new standards.

Eventually, there will be a plan put together for the website to explain what will be changing, why, and when.

Take this back to CSDP EC for resolution. No action needed by the Board.

4.0 Continued ANSI Accreditation

TNI became an ANSI-accredited consensus standards body in 2008. At that time, the Board believed this was important to establish TNI's credibility. In addition, an audit by ANSI in 2019 indicated a number of areas for improvement, which have now been implemented. Since 2008, this accreditation has cost TNI over \$100,000 and the projection for FY 2026 would be at least \$14,500, \$12,090 for the annual accreditation fee and \$2,500 in staff support; this could go up significantly if a special audit is required.

TNI now has a 23-year history as a standards development organization and has very well-defined policies and procedures that conform to OMB A-119 requirements. After looking at this issue in detail, Jerry, Paul, and Bob are recommending we discontinue this accreditation.

This topic was discussed in the December Board call and concerns were expressed about not having some sort of independent check on our processes. Based on this concern, a small group met in Boston to discuss options and developed the following recommendations:

1. TNI will develop a Request for Proposal (RFP) to solicit a contractor to take on this duty,
2. The RFP will emphasize a review of TNI's policies and procedures related to conformance to OMB circular A-119 and review TNI committee operations for conformance to the TNI policies and procedures.
3. The RFP will not specify the frequency of the check and which committees and standards will be evaluated but emphasize that all committees and standards should be evaluated at some frequency, Note the current ANSI is one committee and one standard every 5 years.
4. In addition to posting on the TNI website, the RFP will be sent to our NGAB who all have indicated they know of individuals/organizations that are not in environmental that would be capable of taking on this activity.

If the Board approves this action, the goal would be to complete this effort in the next 4-6 months. ANSI would be notified in April when the current invoice of \$12K would not be paid.

A small group met in Austin, TX to discuss this topic. The idea is to do our own audits, instead of payment ANSI \$12K to do it for us. We can hire someone independent from us that can do it better and less expensive than ANSI. We will develop a Request for Proposal. All committees and standards would be audited.

There may have been a disadvantage to removing us from ANSI years ago, but not now. The value is just not there anymore. We also do not have to be an ANSI member to issue comments to ISO. We can issue comments to them directly.

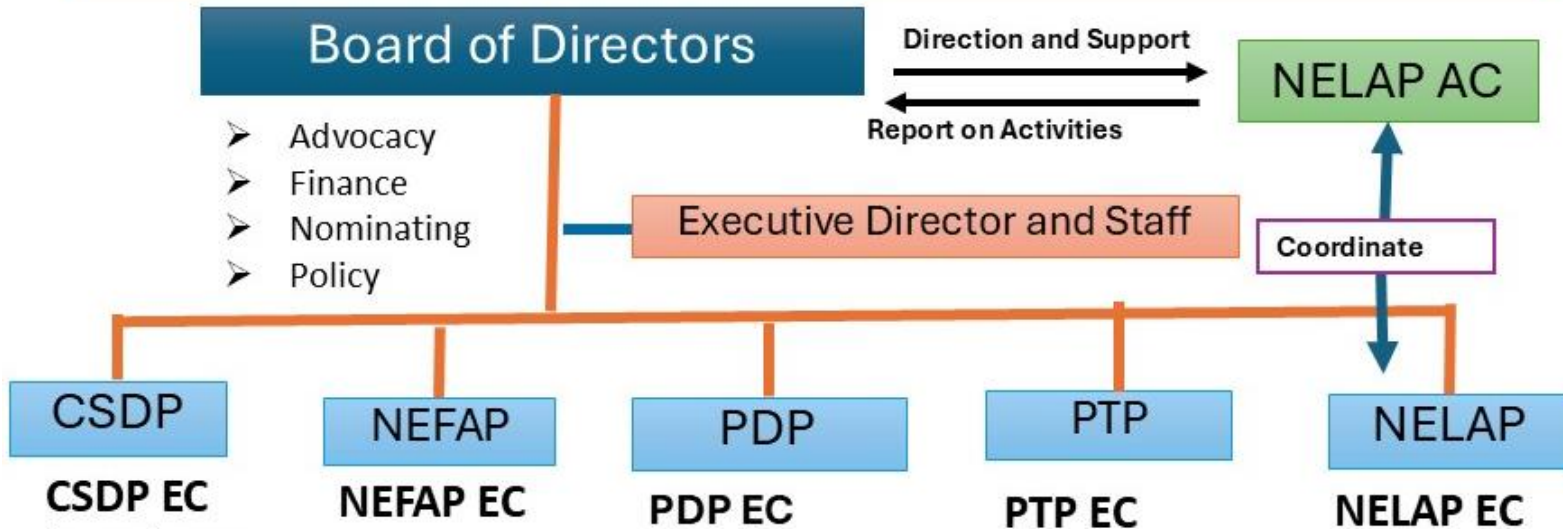
Motion to approve proposal to move audit activity to an outside resource:

Motion to Approve: Robin Cook

Second: William Lipps

Approved: Unanimous

The NELAC Institute



- Advocacy
- Finance
- Nominating
- Policy

CSDP EC

- Asbestos
- Chemistry
- Field Activities
- Laboratory Accreditation Body
- Microbiology
- Proficiency Testing
- Quality Management System
- Radiochemistry
- Whole Effluent Toxicity

NEFAP EC

PDP EC

- Credentials
- Training

PTP EC

NELAP EC

Legend

- AB – Accreditation Body
- AC – Accreditation Council
- CSDP – Cinsensus Standards Development Program
- EC – Executive Committee
- LAB – Laboratory Accreditation Body
- NEFAP – National Environmental Field Activities Program
- NELAP – National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program
- PDP – Professional Development Program
- PTP – Proficiency Test Program
- QMS – Quality Management System
- WET – Whole Effluent Toxicity

CONSENT AGENDA

Approved 2/11/2026

1.0 Approval of December Minutes

2.0 Global Accreditation Cooperation

Beginning 1 January 2026, a new international accreditation organization, Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated, has been established to combine the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF). Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated has commenced full operations as of 1 January 2026, including the launch of the Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MRA).

<https://globalaccreditationcooperationincorporated.org/>

3.0 Linked-In Posts by Jerry Thao

3.1 2026 Welcome

As we welcome a brand new year, we're filled with excitement as we reflect on what we've accomplished this past year. We thank all of the volunteers serving on TNI's Board of Directors and administrative/program/expert committees for their continued efforts and work to help support TNI's mission to foster the generation of environmental data of known and documented quality through an open, inclusive, and transparent process that is responsive to the needs of the community.

We not only look forward to what lies ahead here in 2026, but we also look forward to hearing from you, as well as seeing you seeing you all at the winter Forum on Environmental Accreditation in Boston, MA (January 12-15, 2026) and the summer Environmental Measurement Symposium in Houston, TX (August 3-6, 2026).

Whether you're celebrating with family, friends, or taking some time for yourself, may this year bring you joy, success, and good health!

3.2 Posts about the Boston Meeting

Jerry provided many posts and photos from the 2026 Forum on the TNI Linked-In page. [\(29\) The NELAC Institute | 501\(c\)\(3\) Non-Profit Organization: Overview | LinkedIn](#)

4.0 Quarterly SIR Report

| SIR Category | # |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Total number received (All time) | 527 |
| Total number received (Q4 2025) | 4 |
| Number unresolved | 4 |

1 SIR was received that was ruled to not be an SIR, and 3 are awaiting a decision but are likely to be not valid. The total number of SIRs submitted is 526. SIR updates during Q4 2025 are as follows:

| SIR # | Date | Subject | Status |
|-------|----------|--|---|
| 427 | 2/7/22 | <p>V1M4: 1.7.1.1.k.ii.a states, "Measurement of the Relative Error: This calculation shall be performed for 2 calibration levels: the standard at or near the mid-point of the initial calibration and the standard at the lowest level."</p> <p>Question: What is the correct determination of what "near the mid-point of the initial calibration" means? Does this mean it is half-way between the lowest concentration and highest concentration standards? Does it mean that it is one of the middle calibration points? For example: ICAL standards of 0.5, 1, 5, 10, 25, 50, 100 ug/L. What is "near the mid-point" in this example? Do we use 50, because it's the concentration that is half-way between the highest and lowest ICAL concentrations or can we use 5 or 10 or 25 because it's one of the concentrations at the middle of our calibration points?</p> | Posted - Since the Standard does not define the level associated with "at or near the mid-point of the initial calibration" either interpretation would be acceptable. |
| 499 | 9/12/24 | <p>Do preservatives need to be included in method blanks and associated laboratory fortified samples? For further information to consider, please note the following:</p> <p>The definition of Laboratory Fortified Sample (however named) in the TNI Standard is - A sample matrix, free from the analytes of interest, spiked with verified known amounts of analytes or a material containing known and verified amounts of analytes and taken through all sample preparation and analytical steps of the procedure unless otherwise noted in a reference method. It is generally used to establish intra-laboratory or analyst specific precision and bias or to assess the performance of all or a portion of the measurement system.</p> <p>Analytical methods have separate sections that outline the requirements for sample preparation and analysis, and those sections are separate from those that discuss sample preservation. In terms of specific methods, EPA 524.2 requires that the LFB be preserved (see Section 7.8.2). EPA 624.1 doesn't address preservation in its preparation of a QC Check sample (see Section 8.4.1). Neither SW846-8260D, 8000C, nor 5000 address preservation of the LCS. If the LCS were required to be preserved, it would be noted as in EPA 524.2.</p> | No, the standard does not require method blanks or laboratory fortified blanks (however named) to have the preservatives added to them; unless the method specifically requires it. |
| 504 | 11/19/24 | <p>This section requires that disposable or single-use volumetric equipment shall be verified once per lot, prior to or in conjunction with first use.</p> <p>Is it acceptable to perform this verification at one location of a network laboratory, and share that verification documentation among its laboratories, providing the required documentation of verification to any network laboratory that uses the lot in question?</p> | Posted - No, each accredited laboratory shall verify disposable or single-use volumetric devices once per lot, prior to or in conjunction with its first use. |
| 508 | 1/27/25 | <p>Regarding the term "verify" in TNI 2016 V1M2 5.5.13.1(e)(ii) in relation to disposable plastic, class A certified, digitubes and filter tubes, can the verification process be defined by the laboratory? Specifically, If laboratory SOPs stipulate that verification of each CoA for a certified product lot must meet lab defined accuracy and precision criteria for all applicable volumes, would maintaining a record of that CoA with the initials and date of the laboratory staff receiving/validating said consumable and accompanying CoA serve as sufficient prior-to-first-use verification? I have attached an example of the vendor's volume verification CoA for reference.</p> | Ruled non-valid SIR (this occurred early in 2025, but was lost in the transition of roles) |

5.0 CONSENSUS STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (CSDP)

5.1 CSDP Executive Committee

| 2026 Objectives | Status |
|--|---|
| Continue to develop policies and procedures that guide standards development to ensure full compliance with all relevant TNI requirements for Expert Committee operations and standards development. | 2/11: Continue to provide monitoring and oversight of standards development by expert committees. |
| Ensure consistency and uniformity between Volumes and Modules of the Standard | 2/11: Reviewing DS from expert committees to ensure consistency and lack of conflict |
| Provide technical and administrative assistance, guidance documents, checklists, and other tools to facilitate the implementation of all Standards. | |
| Provide opportunities for stakeholder involvement throughout the development process and assist Expert Committees in dissemination of pertinent information and responses to comments. | 2/11: Advised committee chairs that standards naming convention (previously approved) was undergoing further potential revision |
| Continue the Standards revision process, including assuring a 'big picture' review prior to any Module becoming final | |
| Administrative Activities | 2/11: Reviewed expert committees' election of 2026 leadership roles. Review and approved 3 rd term request(s). |

5.2 Asbestos Expert Committee

| 2026 Objectives | Status |
|--|--|
| Continue to develop and maintain consensus standards for asbestos testing that are practical, implementable, and meet the needs of the environmental testing community while providing data of known and documented quality. | 2/11: EL V1M3 waits implementation by Abs. Removed any special requirements for Technical Specialist and will advise QMS expert committee. |
| Pursue adoption and implementation of Module 3 in NELAP. | |
| Serve as a technical resource regarding TNI members and other interested parties. | |
| Develop technical assistance, guidance documents, checklists, and other tools as needed to facilitate the implementation of the new Standard including providing a | 2/11: Continuing to develop Implementation Guidance for SRM equivalency |

webinar/webcast on the changes for the previous version.

Develop questions and training to assist the credentials efforts.

Respond to SIRs as necessary.

Administrative Activities

2/11 Leadership roles remain unchanged. Committee balanced with one new associate.

5.3 Chemistry Expert Committee

| 2026 Objectives | Status |
|--|---|
| Continue to develop and maintain consensus standards for chemical testing that are practical, implementable, and meet the needs of the environmental testing community while providing data of known and documented quality. | 2/11: EL V1M4 published for public comment and comment period has closed. 505 comments received (many editorial and/or duplicative) and committee processing comments. Persuasive comments have been determined, and a revised DS will be forthcoming |
| Finalize EL V1M4 and pursue adoption and implementation. | |
| Provide technical assistance in implementation of the Standard including providing a webinar/webcast on the changes for the previous version. | |
| Serve as a technical resource regarding chemical testing to TNI members and other interested parties. | |
| Support the Credentialing effort. | |
| Develop technical assistance, guidance documents, checklists, training, and other tools as needed to facilitate the implantation of the new Standard. | 2/11: Guidance documents anticipated but not yet defined |
| Respond to any SIRs as necessary. | 2/11: Awaiting resolution from LASEC/AC on 2 outstanding SIRs |
| Administrative Activities | 2/11: New committee leadership (Nicole Cairns) in place and 3 new associates added, 5 members rotating off the committee. Election of new members scheduled for March meeting from 13 candidates. Balance will be maintained. |

5.4 Field Activities Expert Committee

| 2025 Objectives | Status |
|--|---|
| Complete revisions to Volume 2. | 2/11: Committee is expecting to finalize the Draft Standard for Committee vote. The Summary of Changes will then be completed, and the Standard will be posted for comment late February/early March. |
| Assist NEFAP in planning for Sampling Conclave. | 2/11: The Sampling conclave will be June 2026. See NEFAP EC for additional information. |
| Discuss addition of media-specific field sampling modules to Volume 1. | 2/11: The committee believes this is not needed given the new Annex in Volume 1. |
| Respond to SIRs as necessary. | |
| Work with the NELAP EC to develop tools to facilitate the implementation of the new Volume 1 Standard including providing webinar/webcast on the changes for the previous version. | 2/11: Work will continue on the Accreditation Process Guidance Document after the Volume 2 Standard is posted. |
| Administrative Activities | |

5.5 Laboratory Accreditation Body (LAB) Expert Committee

| 2026 Objectives | Status |
|---|--|
| Finalize Standard V2M1, Revision 2. | 2/11: Workgroups are continuing to help finalize language: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DRAFT language for Assessor Qualifications is just about complete. - ISO/IEC language being removed from the Standard has been gathered. The Committee needs to review this proposal. - Comments from Conferences are being reviewed for any additional changes to the DRAFT Standard. - The Summary of Changes needs to be completed prior to posting the Revised DRAFT Standard (Rev 2). |
| - Discuss and rule on any comments Persuasive or Non-persuasive | 2/11: The Committee is confirming that responses are still consistent with changes made to the Standard and should be voting on this document in February/March. |
| - If controversies identified, publish Revision 3 and receive/review comments again. | |
| Review and update Technical Review Checklist as needed based on changes to standard and the evaluation process. | |

Work with the NELAP AC to revise the evaluation process.

2/11: Work will begin in March.

Provide technical assistance in developing tools to facilitate the implementation of the Standard including providing a webinar/webcast training on the new Standard.

Respond to SIRs s necessary.

Administrative Activities

2/11: Membership will be finalized in February. Extensions for third terms are being requested to complete the DRAFT Standard.

5.6 Microbiology Expert Committee

| 2026 Objectives | Status |
|---|---|
| Complete Volume 1 Module 5 Draft Standard. | 1/14: Committee met and discussed comments on the draft Standard. The committee was unable to finalize all comments in time to present a new Draft in Boston. 2/11: No additional meeting held in January due to timing of Forum in Boston. |
| Respond to SIRs s necessary. | |
| Revise Implementation Guidance (IG) regarding Incubator Equilibrium checks and Temperature Distribution if needed. | |
| Serve as a technical resource regarding microbiological testing to TNI members and other interested parties. | |
| Provide technical assistance in developing tools to facilitate the implementation of the Standard including providing a webinar/webcast on the changes for the previous version | |
| Develop questions and training to assist with the credential's efforts. | |
| Administrative Activities | 1/14: Hunter Adams and Elixia Snyder will be rotating off of the committee, leaving 3 openings. Only laboratory stakeholders applied for the openings. In order to maintain balance, only 2 openings will be filled. Cody Danielson was re-elected Chair. Robin Cook is stepping down as Vice Chair to facilitate an eventual successor to Cody. An election is in process for her replacement. 2/11: Nigel Allison was elected Vice Chair. Katie Strothman and Elizabeth Turner were elected as Voting members. One position remains open on the Committee, but it can't be filled by an Accredited Organization stakeholder due to balance concerns. |

5.7 Proficiency Testing (PT) Expert Committee

| 2026 Objectives | Status |
|---|---|
| <p>Continue to develop and maintain consensus standards for proficiency testing that are practical, implementable, and meet the needs of the environmental testing community while providing data of known and documented quality.</p> <p>Complete revisions to EL V1M1, EL V2M2 EL V3 and EL V4. Pursue adoption and Implementation.</p> | <p>2/11: EL V4 published for public comment and comment period has closed. EL V3 nears completion and posting in March is anticipated.</p> <p>2/11: Numerous comments receive on V4 and committee processing comments. Persuasive comments have been determined, and a revised DS will be forthcoming</p> |
| <p>Serve as a technical resource to TNI membership and the environmental testing community regarding PT performance.</p> | <p>2/11: Working with PTP EC to ensure implementability of standards as well as application of FoPT table utility</p> |
| <p>Provide technical assistance in developing tools to facilitate the implementation of the Standard including providing a webinar/webcast on the changes for the previous version.</p> <p>Support the Credentialing effort.</p> <p>Respond to SIRs as necessary</p> <p>Administrative Activities</p> | <p>2/11: Leadership roles remain unchanged. Committee balanced with 3 new associate members. Seeking approval for 2 individuals for 3rd term; last position on committee anticipated to be filled in March election.</p> |

5.8 Quality Management Systems (QMS) Expert Committee

| 2026 Objectives | Status |
|--|--|
| <p>Complete Volume 1 Module 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Publish DRAFT – Review of comments – Publish Revised DRAFT as needed. <p>Provide technical assistance in developing tools to facilitate the implementation of the Standard including providing a</p> | <p>2/11: The Committee is reviewing comments from the Boston Conference to make any final changes to the DRAFT Standard. The Summary of Changes document was shared in Boston and is just about complete. The Committee is expecting vote on the DRAFT Standard in March.</p> <p>2/11: The Committee is working on the Cross-Reference of the new Standard to the 2016 Standard.</p> |

webinar/webcast on the changes for the previous version.

Respond to any SIR as necessary.

Administrative Activities as necessary.

2/11: The Committee's request for Debbie Bond's third term was approved by the CSDP EC.

5.9 Radiochemistry Expert Committee

| 2026 Objectives | Status |
|--|--|
| Revise Module 6 as needed. | 2/11: The Committee is not planning to make any content updates to Module 6. |
| Provide technical assistance in developing tools to facilitate the implementation of the Standard including providing a webinar/webcast on the changes for the previous version. | |
| Work with the "PT Expert Committee to resolve reporting uncertainty with PT results during their Standard development process. | 2/11: Work in progress. |
| Develop and present a training class geared towards people that are not experts in the field. | 2/11: The Committee is developing a 4 hour course that will be held in Houston and then recorded as a webinar. |
| Respond to any SIR as necessary. | |
| Work with the PTP EC to develop Non-Potable Water PTs and/or other PT issues | |
| Support Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee as needed with Radiochemistry FoPT limits. | |
| Administrative Activities | 2/11: Membership will be finalized in February. |

5.10 Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Expert Committee

| 2025 Objectives | Status |
|--|--|
| Complete revision of V1M7 and publish a Draft Standard for comment. | 2/11: Committee reviewed comments received at the Forum in Boston. Some changes were made in the draft on the basis of those comments. |
| Provide technical assistance in developing tools to facilitate the implementation of the Standard including providing a webinar/webcast on the changes for the previous version. | |
| Complete the effort to establish a path to achieve data comparability for WET PT data. | |
| Support as needed the QC Specialist badge for aquatic toxicity for the credentialing initiative. | |

Respond to any SIR as necessary.

Provide venue for sharing of information and best practices of WET labs.

Administrative Activities

1/14: 2 committee members approved for second terms. No member terms expired. At least one member has retired and will serve through the completion of the Standard. New members are needed.

2/11: 2 applications have been received for new members, both in the Accredited Organization stakeholder group. Due to balance issues, only one such member could be added. This should occur in conjunction with the February meeting

6. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD ACTIVITIES PROGRAM (NEFAP)

6.1 NEFAP Executive Committee

| 2026 Objectives | Status |
|--|--|
| Market the new Field Activities Standard to FSMOs. | |
| Review and comment on V2 Draft Standard(s). | 2/11: The Committee was provided with a copy of the DRAFT Standard to provide initial comments before the Field Activities Committee vote on the DRAFT Standard. |
| Complete NEFAP AB re-evaluation process. | 2/11/26: PJLA is submitting updates to their application. |
| Continue to develop training courses and implement strategic plan as it relates to training. | 2/11: Field Sampling and Measurements: Ensuring Reliable Results held in Boston on January 15 with 7 students Courses in development: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <u>Internal Auditing for Field Sampling and Measurement Organizations. This course is being developed within the NEFAP EC.</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">o 2/11: Course planned for March or April.- <u>Key Concepts and Implementation of FSMO Volume 1 Standard</u> |
| Continue to aggressively market the Program utilizing the strategies outlined in the strategic plan. | |
| - Hold the fourth annual virtual Sampling Conclave | 2/11: Conclave planned for June 2026 – The Committee is looking at June 16-17, 2026, with a day on PFAS sampling and a second on other topics. Anand is reaching out to EPA for possible participation on PFAS sampling and based on the feedback the Committee will finalize the Conclave details during their February meeting. |
| - Hold a workshop on Sampling for PFAS | 2/11: The Committee is looking at Lessons Learned from the Field and moving PFAS to the Conclave. |

Update policies and procedures to reflect any changes in NEFAP.

Work with the Field Activities to provide technical assistance in developing tools to facilitate the implementation of the Volume 1 Standard including providing a webinar/webcast on the changes for the previous version.

Evaluate need for improved consistency in NEFAP AB Scopes of Accreditation.

Administrative Activities

2/11: Committee membership will be updated in February.

7. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM (NELAP)

7.1 NELAP Accreditation Council

| 2026 Objectives | Status |
|--|--|
| Sustain governance role for the program and promoting consistency in AB operations. | |
| Review and provide comment on V2M1 revised Draft Standards. | 2/11: There was discussion regarding ethics and data integrity procedures related to notification of ABs. The NELAP AC will review DRAFT V1M2 and DRAFT V2M1 language during the February meeting and possibly provide comment. |
| Review and comment on other revised modules of the TNI ELS Standard (Volume 1) as the Expert Committees publish Draft Standards. | 2/11: The NELAP AC completed review of comments on the DRAFT V1M4 Standard and submitted them to the Chemistry Committee. |
| Address issues of concern to NELAP ABs as they arise. | |
| Work with the LAB to revise the evaluation process. | 2/11: Work will begin on this in March. |
| Complete current evaluations and plan for the future. | 2/11: The Texas evaluation was completed and will be reviewed for vote during the February meeting. Ilona reached out to previous attendees participating in the Evaluation quarterly meetings and meetings will start again in March. She is also working on an update to the Evaluation summary that will be provided with monthly reports in March. |
| Continue to provide information sharing venue. | 2/11: Round Table discussions are still in progress. |
| Review Policies and Procedures for 5 year review and as needed. | 2/11: The Mutual Recognition and Dispute Resolution SOPs are being reviewed. |
| Administrative Activities | |

7.2 NELAP Executive Committee

| 2026 Objectives | Status |
|---|--|
| Supplement SIR with Implementation Guidance for non-SIR questions. | 2/11: The SIR SOP will be reviewed for possible updates. |
| Review and provide comments on all EL Draft Standards as they are developed. | 2/11: The Committee prepared comments on the V1M4 <i>Summary of Suggested Changes and Justification</i> document and reviewed a portion of the V1M4 DRAFT Standard (through Section 6.3) of the comments submitted by a Committee Associate Member. The comments were sent to the Chemistry Committee. |
| Prepare to assume role as Recognition Body for NGAB status (parallel to NEFAP and PTPEC recognitions) | |
| Develop Draft Policies and SOPs for NELAP as needed. | 2/11: The following SOPs are being reviewed for update: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 3-103: Standards Review- 3-105: SIR Management- 3-106: Standard Suitability |
| Sustain SIR progress and supplement SIRS with Implementation Guidance for non-SIR questions. | 2/11: Two SIRs were posted as completed SIRs. One SIR will be reviewed by the NELAP AC during the February meeting because of a voting comment. Four SIRs were received and determined to not be SIRs. |
| Work in cooperation with the NELAP Accreditation Council (AC) to assist in implementing this program. | |
| Administrative Activities | 2/11: Membership will be updated in during the February meeting. |

8. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (PDP)

8.1 PDP Executive Committee

| 2026 Objectives | Status |
|--|--|
| Establish and implement guidance, policies, procedures and tools necessary to implement the program. | 2/11: Website and Committee Applications now operational. Notice of creation of committee posted. |
| Provide oversight and guidance to the Credentials and Training committees. | |
| Implement the Jack Farrell Analytical Excellence scholarship. | 2/11: Notification and application were developed and distributed for Jack Farrell Scholarship. Developing review process for applications received. |
| Establish an emerging professionals' initiative (however named). | 2/11: Received great input during the Boston conference. Recommendation to look at a leadership program that includes training and mentorship. Established for people that want to take on more responsibilities in their workplace. Based on people wanting to take a new step, but not necessarily new or young in their professional development. This could be relevant to career, next generation of TNI Committee Chairs, etc. ... New to QA or TNI? Pair them up with an AB, industry person, etc. This pairing could rotate. |
| Investigate opportunities to identify funding to support the program. | 2/11: Received one vendor donation during Boston meeting. |
| Develop and implement "Quality Time with TNI." | 2/11: Quarterly live 1 hour event. Might include: Hot Topics (Tech Specialist, Standard Update Process), Meet a Member, Ask an AB, Back to Basics (MDL procedures, record keeping), etc. |
| Administrative Activities | 2/11: 7 applications received. Membership will be reviewed in February. |

8.2 Credentials Committee

| 2026 Objectivities | Status |
|---|---|
| Continue to support Executive Director in implementing the Credentialing Initiative for a QMS Certified Professional. | 2/11: Exam given in Boston with 3 applicants and 2 passed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Denice Johnson, NEORS - Chemistry and WET - Katalina Li, Spectrum Environmental - Asbestos |
| Continue to review current exam questions for accuracy and understanding. | |
| Continue to develop KSA for Technical Specialist and then develop the exam. | |

Review existing training courses and see if additional courses are needed.

Coordinate with TNI Training Committee in developing courses.

Administrative Activities

2/11: Alison Boren (Vermont) applied to be an Associate Member.

8.3 Training Committee

| 2026 Objectives | Status |
|--|--|
| Continue Linked-In presence. | |
| Continue to work with the Credential Committee to support this effort. | |
| Look for opportunities to collaborate with other training providers. | |
| Post Webcast for how to complete training application to teach courses. | 2/11: Too be completed by next RFP. |
| Work with vendors and other trainers to develop technical course training opportunities. | 2/11: Working with Credentialing to understand courses needed. |
| Develop new survey for webinars. | 2/11: To be reviewed during February meeting. |
| Continue to develop ideas for training courses and issue RFPs. | 2/11: Workgroup meeting before February training meeting. 2 new course applications received and being pursued. Followed up on Scott Sider's course development. Field Internal Audit course set for April. |
| Review training to ensure it is not obsolete. | |
| Continue to update Course Catalog database as new courses are developed. | |
| Continue to offer and market new training courses. | 2/11: Basic Assessor classes will be held the weeks of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– March 23rd– June 22nd– September 21st |
| Continue to hold Mentor Session and Assessment Forum at every TNI meeting | 2/11: Held Assessment Forum and Mentor Session in Boston. <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Mentor Session – But Why? ?.... TNI Requirements– Assessment Forum: But Why?.... State Regulatory Practices |
| Administrative Activities | |

9. PROFICIENCY TESTING PROGRAM (PTP)

9.1 PTP Executive Committee

| 2026 Objectives | Status |
|--|--|
| Implement all policies and procedures necessary to establish, maintain, and continually improve a national PT program to support environmental accreditation programs. | |
| Ensure that fields of Proficiency Testing (FoPTs) are created, maintained, and updated as appropriate to support environmental laboratory accreditation programs. | 2/11: WET FoPT revisions await implementation. Uranium (mass) to be added to Drinking Water FoPT table. |
| Develop resolution for reporting uncertainty with Radiochemistry PT results. | |
| Ensure the effectiveness of the PT Provider accreditation and oversight program. | |
| Complete PTP AB evaluations. | 2/11: Revised SOP approved |
| Complete and gather information on PT Program metrics. | |
| Continue working to be inclusive of non-TNI ABs. | |
| Support the NELAP AC on method codes issues in LAMS as necessary. | |
| Work with PT Expert Committee to update Volumes 3 and 4 of the TNI Laboratory Standard | 2/11: EL V4 reviewed and comments submitted to PTEC. EL V3 anticipated to be received in March for Executive Committee review. |
| Administrative Activities | 2/11: Leadership roles remain unchanged. One member has retired and resigned his position; 3 vacancies being addressed to interested associates; committee balanced with 2 new associate members |

10 ADMINISTRATION

10.1 Advocacy Committee

| 2026 Objectives | Status |
|--|--|
| Implement a plan for national accreditation and systematic outreach to data users that will explain and promote the benefits of a quality management system. | |
| Provide an "Introduction to TNI" webcast for new members. | |
| Provide a "History of TNI and Laboratory accreditation" webinar for new members and the public. | |
| Monitor EPA/federal activities for opportunities to share TNI's activities and promote national accreditation. | |
| Deliver the State of National Accreditation Report to non-NELAP state contacts and trade associations at least every two years. | 2/11: In progress with anticipated completion in December 2026. |
| Look for opportunities to add TNI Ambassadors for non-NELAP states. | 2/11: One new ambassador, Heather Morgan – Alabama. |
| Sustain | |
| – organizing newsletter publication | 2/11: Next Newsletter to be published in June 2026. |
| – support for Small Laboratory Advocate role | |
| Provide outreach (e.g., presentations and papers) to promote The NELAC Institute and TNI's programs. | 2/11: 2026 Presentations confirmed: April 2026 A2LA AnnCon - Paul Junio – Update on TNI Standards May TCEQ Trade Fari – Jerry Parr - Update on TNI Standards |
| Develop a new White Paper on acceptance of NELAP accreditations by non-NELAP states. | |
| Serve as the Steering Committee for TNI's Annual Meeting | 2/11: 2027 Forum will be in Long Beach from January 11-14. |

2027 FORUM
January 11-14, 2027
Hyatt Regency Long Beach

Preliminary Schedule

| Time | Monday: 1/11 | Tuesday: 1/12 | Wednesday: 1/13 | Thursday: 1/14 |
|---------|--|---|---|---|
| 8-12 PM | General Session 8:00 Welcome new Attendees 9:00 Annual Meeting 10:30 TBD | – Assessment Forum – PT/PTPT EC – Prof Dev o Training o Credentials | – QMS – Micro | Credentials Exam California Session OCSD Field Trip |
| 12-1 | Lunch on Own (11:30-1:00) | Lunch Provided | Lunch Provided | |
| 1-5 PM | – Mentor Session – NELAP AC & EC – WET | – FAC/NEFAP – RadioChem – QMS | – Chemistry – LAB – NGAB/Advocacy 4:15 Committee Reports | TNI Staff mtg |
| 5:30 | Reception | | Board reception | |

Exhibit program runs from 3:00 on Monday to 3:30 pm on Tuesday.

Conduct other activities delegated to the Advocacy Committee

2/11: New tasks being considered:

- Promote use of NGABs
- Promote credentialing

Administrative Activities

10.2 Policy Committee

| 2026 Objectives | | Status |
|---|---|---|
| Continue to develop and/or review SOPs and Policies | | See Table below. |
| Policy/SOP No. | Description | Status |
| SOP 1-132 | Formation of TNI Committees and Task Forces | 2/11: Revised SOP provided for Board review and approval. |
| Begin Maintaining Glossary. | | |
| Conduct a 10-year review of the TNI Bylaws and Quality Management Plan. | | 2/11: QMP provided to the Board. |

Conduct other activities delegated to the
Policy Committee
Administrative Activities

10.3 Environmental Measurement Symposium

The 2026 Symposium will be in Houston, TX from August 3-7, 2026.

2025 Environmental Measurement Symposium Conference at a Glance (Draft)

| Time | Mon 8/3 | Tues 8/4 | Wed 8/5 | Thu 8/6 | Fri 8/7 |
|-------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|
| 8:15 | Carter award | Keynote | Plenary Session | 8:30-10:00 Update on Methods and Regulations (3) | Credentials Exam Radiochemistry Training Course |
| 9:00-12:00 | NEMC (5) | NEMC (5) | | 10:30 – 12:00 | |
| | NEMC (5) | NEMC (5) | | Consensus - (3) | |
| | NEMC (5) | NEMC (5) | | Radiochemistry | |
| | PTEC/PTPEC | NELAP AC & EC | | TNI QMS | |
| | Assessment Forum | TNI Micro | | | |
| 12:00-1:00 | Lunch on Own | Lunch | Lunch on own +5 Vendor Lunches | Lunch | |
| | | 1:00 – 3:00 | | | |
| 1:00 – 5:00 | NEMC (6) | NEMC (4) | NEMC (6) | NEMC (7) | |
| | NEMC (6) | NEMC (4) | NEMC (6) | NEMC (7) | |
| | NEMC (6) | NEMC (4) | NEMC (6) | TNI PDP (1-4) | |
| | Chemistry | Chemistry | TNI QMS | TNI Field (1-4) | |
| | LAB | WET | Mentor | Committee Report 4:15-5 | |
| 5:30 | Reception & Exhibit | Showcase 3:30 - 5:30 | Exhibit close 3:30 | | |

2/11: The theme for this year's Symposium is Strengthening Public Trust in Science. 125 abstracts (97 oral and 28 poster) have been submitted for the NEMC part of the meeting. A draft of the TNI schedule was provided to committee chairs. 30 organizations (39 tables), including 5 lunch sponsors and 3 meeting sponsors, have signed up to be exhibitors; the meeting space has room for 68 tables.

10.4 NGAB Evaluations

| 2025 Objectives | Status |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Complete NGAB re-evaluation process. | 2/11: Schedule completed in February |

11. TASK FORCES AND OTHER EFFORTS

11.1 Consumables Task Force

| 2026 Objectives | Status |
|---|--|
| Prepare guidance document. | 2/11: Document provided to Policy in December 2025 |
| Upon Policy Committee approval develop implementation tools and training for laboratories use of the Guidance document. | |
| Dissolve the Task Force | |

11.2 Feedback Task Force

| 2026 Objectives | Status |
|--------------------------|---|
| Conduct the survey. | 2/11: Survey sent to over 6000 individuals on 2/3. Responses are due by 2/18/26. 53 responses have been received. |
| Develop recommendations. | |
| Dissolve the Task Force | |

12. MEMBERSHIP

- 1133 active members

12.1 Committee Applications

| Name | Organization | Interest | Committee |
|---------------------|---|----------|-----------|
| Carlita Barton | Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts | Voting | WET |
| Jean-Francois Borny | Lummus Technology | Voting | PDP EC |
| Calista Daigle | Pace Analytical Sciences | Voting | WET |
| Salima Haniff | Bureau Veritas Canada | Voting | PDP EC |
| Salima Haniff | Bureau Veritas Canada | Voting | Chemistry |

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Salima Haniff | Bureau Veritas Canada | Voting | QMS |
| Hannah Herrick | IDEXX | Associate | Microbiology |
| Jessica Jensen | City of Kansas City | Voting | QMS |
| Nadine Lewis | Proficiency Testing Canada | Associate | Proficiency Testing |
| Littia Mann | Vermont Dept. of Health | Voting | PDP EC |
| Charles Morrow | SPL | Voting | PDP EC |
| Charles Morrow | SPL | Voting | Chemistry |
| Anand Mudambi | Retired (From US EPA) | Voting | PDP EC |
| Hunter Nelson | LabWare Global Services | Voting | QMS |
| Joshua Pritchard | Illinois EPA | Voting | Radiochemistry |
| Cheyenne Simmons | A2LA | Associate | QMS |
| Kevin Thompson | Waters | Associate | PTP EC |
| Michelle Wade | Wade Consulting & Solutions | Voting | PDP EC |
| Lauren Webb | A2LA | Associate | QMS |

12.2 New and Renewed Members:

- 59 New and Renewed memberships in December, 2025

12.3 Expired Memberships

- Of the 15 expired memberships from November, 8 renewed after contact. Emails were sent to December expired members on January 2, 2026.
- 26 Memberships Expired in December
- Of the 26 expired memberships from December, 8 renewed after contact. Emails were sent to January expired members on February 2, 2026.
- 36 Memberships Expired in January