

**TNI Credentials Committee Minutes**  
**Wednesday, June 25, 2025**

**1. Welcome, Roll Call, and Agenda Review**

See Attachment 1. The agenda was amended by adding a consideration of an application for committee membership and an item to review Chat GTP answers relative to Technical Specialist language.

Revised agenda approved by Unanimous Consent

**2. Approval of May minutes**

Motion: Stacey  
Second: Theresa  
Vote: Unanimous

**3. Consideration of Paul Canevero as a Voting Member**

Motion: David  
Second: Elizabeth  
Vote: Unanimous

**4. Formation of Professional Development Executive Committee**

The Professional Development Task Force met on June 13, approved their Charter and developed a proposed Charter for the Executive Committee of this new proposed core program. A Copy of the EC Charter was provided separately. The Task Force also developed the language below for inclusion in the next revision of the TNI Bylaws.

Professional Development Program

The purpose of the Professional Development Program is to establish and maintain efforts to enhance the knowledge, skills, and abilities of individuals conducting environmental sampling and measurement.

The Task Force requests the Board approve the Task Force Charter, the Executive Committee Charter, authorize the creation of the new committee, and dissolve the Task Force at their meeting on July 9.

Note: Most, if not all, of the Task Force members expressed an interest in joining the new Executive Committee, which would give the committee an initial roster of 8 voting members.

**5. Feedback from the Exam Prep Class**

**5.1 General**

A total of 21 individuals took this class. Of the 29 questions, one was rejected as it was formatted wrong. Another was excluded due to mixed responses. Two other questions had divided responses with the majority selecting the correct answer. Of the 21 individuals, 17 scored >70. Thus this snapshot provides good confidence about both the questions and the viability of the exam.

**5.2 Review of specific questions**

This question had very mixed responses:

An accredited environmental laboratory has a written documented procedure for conducting an internal audit which outlines requirements of the internal audit formal written report. During the internal audit the laboratory technical manager submitted hand-written notes taken as evidence that an internal audit was performed. Did the laboratory perform an internal audit?

No	3
Maybe	0
Yes	5
At-will of assessor to determine	5
All but b	3
No Answer	5

The committee decided to delete this question due to the vagueness of the question

This question had mixed responses but a majority got the correct answer:

A customer complained that the sample receipt temperature was incorrectly reported. The raw data for the analytical tests must be included in the information to be used in investigating the complaint

TRUE	12
FALSE	8
No answer	1

The committee decided to reword the question as shown below.

A customer complained that the sample receipt temperature was incorrectly reported. The raw data for the **temperature measurement** must be included in the information to be used in investigating the complaint.

This question also had mixed responses but a majority got the correct answer:

Which is not acceptable for ongoing DOC?

Acceptable performance of a blank sample	11
Acceptable performance of blind performance sample.	0
Four random LCS samples	1
Another initial DOC	
A process of reviewing QC samples performed by an analyst or group of analysts.	7
No Answer	2

This one seems ok as answer is right out of the standard and it is clear a blank cannot be used for a DOC. However, the committee decided to reword the question as shown below.

Which **cannot be used** for ongoing DOC?

#### 4.3 Comments from Chat

The comments below were reviewed by the committee and as summarized after each comment, an action was decided.

1. What is considered a quality position? Language in Section 4.1.7.1 of Module 2 defines this position. The Credentials document will be updated to reflect this. The specific language is shown below.

- a)serve as the focal point for QA/QC and be responsible for the oversight and/or review of QC data;
- b)have functions independent from laboratory operations for which they have QA oversight;
- c)be able to evaluate data objectively and perform assessments without outside (e.g., managerial) influence;
- d)have documented training and/or experience in QA/QC procedures and the laboratory's quality system;
- e)have a general knowledge of the analytical methods for which data review is performed;
- f) arrange for or conduct internal audits as per Section 4.14 annually;
- g)notify laboratory management of deficiencies in the quality system; and
- h)monitor corrective actions.

2. Do the years have to be full-time? Would an internship count towards experience? The individual would need to document the experience. Does not need to be consecutive.

3. Can you drop a technical area if you do poorly on the test? Like what if I applied for Radiochemistry but I get all the questions wrong, Can I get badged for all the other areas and "pass" the test? Yes

4. If you are on one of the expert committees, and were involved in the development of questions, can you still do the general exam, and subject exams that don't correspond to your expert committee? Yes, the specific questions developed by the expert committee are less than 10% of the total.

5. During the actual exam, is there a way to ask for question clarifications? No

6. If we don't know which questions we get wrong after the exam, how would we possibly appeal questions? An individual could indicate a question they thought was poorly worded or request a review of their score. For this first exam, all applicants will receive the same exam to attempt to identify any poorly worded question.

## **7. Update on Registrations for the exam in St. Louis**

As on 6/24, 13 individuals have registered for the exam.

## **8. Review of Webpage for Submitting Experience**

The committee reviewed the draft upload page at: <https://eds.nelac-institute.org/OnsiteExam> and decided a check box indicating the individual attest the information to be true to the best of their knowledge.

## **9. Use of AI for KSAs for Technical Specialist**

The committee briefly reviewed emails from Scot Siders and William Daystrom on using Chat GTP to help develop language and determined this could be a useful resource. During the call, David Smith used ChatGTP to develop over 400 questions regarding ICP-MS and then 20 multiple choice questions with one correct answer. Jerry will combine Scott's and Williams, email into one document for the next call and David will continue to play with questions.

**Attachment 1**  
**Credentials Committee Roster**

NAME	EMAIL	AFFILIATION	STAKE-HOLDER CATEGORY	Present?
Paul Banfer	<a href="mailto:paul.banfer@eisc.net">paul.banfer@eisc.net</a>	EISC	Other	Yes
Kenneth Brown	<a href="mailto:Kenneth.brown@escondido.gov">Kenneth.brown@escondido.gov</a>	City of Escondido	Lab	Yes
Paul Canevaro	<a href="mailto:PCanevaro@Republicservices.com">PCanevaro@Republicservices.com</a>	US Ecology Inc./ Republic Services	Lab	Yes
Patricia Carvajal	<a href="mailto:pmcarvajal@sariverauthority.org">pmcarvajal@sariverauthority.org</a>	San Antonio River Authority	Lab	No
Steve Drielak	<a href="mailto:drielak-associates@usa.net">drielak-associates@usa.net</a>	Drielak & Associates	Other	No
Stacey Fry	<a href="mailto:Stacey.fry@cannabis.ca.gov">Stacey.fry@cannabis.ca.gov</a>	CA Dept. of Cannabis Control	Other	Yes
Salima Haniff	<a href="mailto:Salima.haniff@bvlabs.com">Salima.haniff@bvlabs.com</a>	Bureau Veritas Labs	Lab	
Harold Longbaugh	<a href="mailto:Harold.Longbaugh@houstontx.gov">Harold.Longbaugh@houstontx.gov</a>	City of Houston	Lab	Yes
Theresa Johnson	<a href="mailto:Theresa.Johnson@mccampbell.com">Theresa.Johnson@mccampbell.com</a>	McCampbell Analytical, Inc.	Lab	Yes
Melanie Roshu	<a href="mailto:melanie.roshu@gmail.com">melanie.roshu@gmail.com</a>	Matrix Sciences International, Inc.	Lab	No
Joann Slavin	<a href="mailto:joann.slavin@health.ny.gov">joann.slavin@health.ny.gov</a>	NY DOH	AB	No
David Smith	<a href="mailto:david.smith@antylia.com">david.smith@antylia.com</a>	Environmental Express	Other	Yes
Alfredo Sotomayor	<a href="mailto:asotomayor@mmsd.com">asotomayor@mmsd.com</a>	Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewer District	Lab	Yes
Elizabeth Turner	<a href="mailto:Elizabeth.turner@pacelabs.com">Elizabeth.turner@pacelabs.com</a>	Pace Labs, Inc.	Lab	Yes
<b>Associate Members:</b>				
Jerry Thao	<a href="mailto:Jerry.thao@pacelabs.com">Jerry.thao@pacelabs.com</a>	Pace Labs, Inc.	Lab	
<b>Staff:</b>				
Jerry Parr	<a href="mailto:Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org">Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org</a>	TNI Executive Director		Yes
Lynn Bradley	<a href="mailto:Lynn.bradley@nelac-institute.org">Lynn.bradley@nelac-institute.org</a>	TNI Program Administrator		No