

Summary of the Laboratory Accreditation Body Expert Committee Meeting
Friday, April 26, 2024 1:00 pm Eastern

1. Welcome and Roll Call

This meeting was rescheduled after the planned April 16 meeting had to be cancelled. Yumi welcomed everyone to the meeting. A quorum was not present, but with no additions offered, the agenda was declared to be approved and is in Attachment 2. The minutes of February 20 and March 19, 2024, will be held until the May meeting.

2. Potential Language Revisions from Discussion with NELAP Accreditation Council

Aaren and Yumi met with the NELAP AC at its April 1 meeting, and discussed three issues:

- who can deliver assessment reports to the lab, and would changing the timeline help with resolution (Florida's comments #2&3)
- what limits (if any) should be put on remote assessments
- what, if any, language changes are needed to address changing certificate requirements

The discussion summary from the draft minutes of the Council meeting was shared with LAB members, along with some language revisions drafted by Yumi for discussion within LAB prior to sharing the possible revisions with the Council. Yumi will revise the draft language sections based on today's discussion.

Delivering Assessment Reports to Labs

From the discussion with the Council, it is clear that the majority of AB representatives believe that the AB should deliver the assessment report in all cases, but Florida's statute appears to be inconsistent with that procedure, so setting a requirement that FL cannot meet would just force a veto vote on the final version of the standard. However, a majority of the Council members favor extending the timeline for delivering reports and receiving corrective actions to 45 calendar days, from the present 30 days. This would be applicable to every stage of the report delivery and response process.

Remote Assessments

Most NELAP ABs have continued to use some form of remote assessment, since the pandemic emergency ended. Most often, this takes the form of a "hybrid" assessment with some activities being done virtually and document reviews being accomplished off-site but a smaller team on-site for a shorter period of time. However, Louisiana's regulations are specific about "on-site assessments" being necessary, so that unless/until that is changed (and in the absence of an emergency declaration), LA could not grant secondary accreditation to any lab that underwent only a remote assessment. Additionally, EPA's drinking water certification managers are definitely not satisfied with the concept of remote or virtual assessments. Participants discussed options such as carving out specific procedures for drinking water assessments or specifying that fully remote/virtual assessments could only be utilized when a governmental emergency declaration is in place. No resolution was agreed upon, but Yumi will work on drafting another possible option.

Accreditation Certificates Identifying the Primary AB for Each Item in the Scope of Accreditation

EPA's Drinking Water program management is requesting that the standard be modified to require that the primary AB be identified on the certificate for each method/matrix/analyte combination, for traceability purposes. EPA reports that they have identified instances where a non-NELAP state has granted certification for the entire

scope, based on a certificate that commingled primary and secondary accreditations so that they were indistinguishable, and that if there were to be a problem with the lab, the Agency would struggle to identify the state that performed the assessment for any given item on the scope of accreditation.

Unfortunately, several states use IT systems that are not capable of including that additional data element in processing accreditations, so that making a requirement of the standard would not be feasible. Those states have offered, instead, to provide an accompanying letter (or something similar) with the certificate that does identify the primary AB for each item on the scope, and EPA has declared that to be an acceptable alternative. We note that all NELAP accreditations, primary and secondary, are clearly identified in the LAMS database, but for now, none of the non-NELAP states have sought to have their certifications included in LAMS.

This item probably cannot be addressed in the language of the standard at the present time, without causing several NELAP ABs to be non-compliant for periods of several years or longer.

3. Voting on Remaining Comments

Without a quorum, no voting could take place. Consideration of persuasiveness of comments will be deferred until the May meeting.

4. New Business

There was no new business. Yumi reminded participants that Aaren asks everyone to read the full Draft Standard looking for items that seem to need further consideration or for any internal inconsistencies.

5. Next Meeting

The next planned teleconference meeting is tentatively scheduled for **Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 1:00 pm Eastern.** Aaren asks that committee members unable to attend please notify her and Lynn prior to the meeting date.

Attachment 1 LAB Expert Committee Roster

Name/Email	Term ends	Affiliation	Present?
Aaren Alger, Chair Aaren.s.alger@gmail.com	1/30/2026 (2nd term)	Other – Alger Consulting & Training	No
Socorro Baldonado sbaldonado@mwdh2o.com	1/30/2026 (2nd term)	Lab – Metropolitan Water District, La Verne, CA	Yes
Nilda Cox nilda.cox@et.eurofinsus.com	1/30/2025 (2nd term)	Lab – Eurofins Eaton Analytical LLC	No
Yumi Creason, Vice Chair ycreason@pa.gov	1/30/2025 (1 st term)	AB – Pennsylvania	Yes
Bill Hall george.w.hall@des.nh.gov	1/30/2026 (1st term)	AB – NH DES	No
Sviatlana Haubner Sviatlana.Haubner@cincinnati-oh.gov	1/30/2025 (1 st term)	LAB – Cincinnati Metropolitan Sewer District	Yes
Michella Karapondo Karapondo.michella@epa.gov	1/30/2025 (1st term)	Other – EPA OGWDW TSC/Cincinnati	No
Michael Perry michael.perry@lvvwd.com	1/30/2026 (2nd term)	Lab – Southern Nevada Water Authority	No
Zaneta Popovska zpopovska@anab.org	1/30/2025 (2nd term)	AB – ANAB	Yes
Program Administrator: Lynn Bradley Lynn.Bradley@nelac-institute.org	N/A		Yes
Associate Members:			
Paul Bergeron Paul.bergeron@la.gov		AB – LDEQ	Yes
Debbie Bond dbond@southernco.com		LAB – Alabama Power	No
Taryn Hurley taryn.hurley@deq.ok.gov		AB – OK DEQ	No
Paul Junio paul.junio@pacelabs.com		LAB – Pace Labs, Inc.	No
Carl Kircher, Chair carl_kircher@flhealth.gov		AB – Florida Department of Health	No
LeeAnn Kline lkline@mireider.com		M J Reider Associates	Yes
Ryan Lerch Ryan.lerch@deq.ok.gov		AB – OK DEQ	Yes
Marlene Moore mmoore@advancedsys.com		Other – Advanced Systems, Inc., Newark, DE	No
Mei Beth Shepherd, Vice Chair mbshep@sheptechserv.com		Other – Shepherd Technical Services	No
Nicholas Slawson nslawson@a2la.org		AB – A2LA	No
Ilona Taunton Ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org		Other – TNI Program Administrator	No
Cathy Westerman cathy.westerman@dgs.virginia.gov		AB – VA DCLS	No

Attachment 2 – LAB Expert Committee Meeting Agenda, April 26, 2024

- Welcome and Roll Call
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes (February and March minutes attached)
- Discussion of Three Issues from Accreditation Council Meeting (see attached draft summary of discussion from AC minutes and draft proposed revisions to V2M1 for AC review after LAB discussion)
- Begin Voting on Remaining Comments (see attached response-to-comments file and draft module)
- New Business, if any
- Adjourn