

Laboratory Accreditation System Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 27, 2023 1:30 pm Eastern

1) Welcome and Roll Call

Maria opened the meeting. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A. The minutes of May 25, 2023, meeting were approved unanimously after a motion by Mike with Shari providing a second.

LASEC did not meet in June.

2) Agreement Reached with CSDEC Regarding LASEC Review of Standards Documents

The next revision of the Standards Development SOP 2-100 will reflect the language used in the LASEC Standards Review for Suitability SOP 3-106, with regard to our committee's review of final standards:

8.5.6 A period of at least thirty (30) days shall follow the two-thirds affirmative vote of the Expert Committee. During this period, CSDP EC shall review the Response to Comments for previously undetected issues of enforceability and for errors made in the review process. The LASEC will review the document following their procedures in SOP 3-106, Review of Accreditation Standards for Suitability. The Accreditation Council may perform a similar review. If no comments/feedback are received after this review, the process is complete. If changes to the standard are necessary, the process returns to Section 8.5.1.

3) Update for LASEC on LAB and NELAP AC Efforts to Revise the NELAP Evaluation Process to Improve Efficiency and Effectiveness

Maria asked Aaren, Chair of the LAB Expert Committee, to brief participants on discussions underway about revising the evaluation process. Aaren explained that the goal is to reduce what have become repetitive document reviews and shift to evaluating the implementation of those documented processes. The hope and intent will be to enhance the evaluation, not to detract from it.

Issues being discussed are:

- whether to return to on-site visits instead of the current remote-only evaluations,
- whether to resume observations or just focus on how effectively the AB is evaluating its assessors,
- how to reduce the burden on AB staff serving as evaluators, perhaps by adding additional volunteer evaluators, and
- possibly increasing AB reporting as part of the application process.

Aaren noted that there is general consensus on continuing to perform full document reviews and an on-site visit to new AB applicants, and also that the historic participation of EPA Regional Drinking Water Certification Officers in evaluations has dropped off (only Regions 1, 2, and 3 continue to participate) while there is now a Lead Evaluator contracted to TNI for each evaluation (two Leads and one Alternate, for the current cycle).

In response to questions, Aaren explained that the cost of evaluations is included in the AB annual fees, and that the results of EPA's separate audits are not considered in

evaluations, although everything covered in those audits is also addressed in the NELAP evaluations. Also, Lynn explained that the “draft options” document circulated as background is merely a “mix’n’match” of possibilities discussed thus far, and does not reflect any agreed-upon changes to the process.

4) New Business

Lynn noted that the Asbestos module, V1M3, is now considered final, and will be sent to both LASEC and the NELAP AC for review. LASEC can address this at its regularly scheduled August meeting.

5) Next Meeting

The next LASEC meeting will be at conference in Minneapolis on Thursday, August 3, 2023, at 3:15 pm Central. Remote participation will not be available, but those registered for conference will be able to view the recording shortly after the session.

The next LASEC teleconference will be on Thursday, August 24, at 1:30 pm Eastern. An agenda and any needed documents will be provided in advance.

The next SIR Subcommittee teleconference will be on Thursday, August 17, 2023, assuming that there are SIRs to be reviewed.

Attachment A TNI LABORATORY ACCREDITATION SYSTEMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ROSTER

	NAME	EMAIL	Term End Date	INTEREST	AFFILIATION	S/H CATEGORY	PRESENT
1	Maria Friedman, Chair	gamfriedman@gmail.com	1/23 (first term)	SIRs	CA ELAP	AB	Yes
2	Harold Longbaugh, Vice Chair	harold.longbaugh@houstontx.gov	1/25 (3rd term)	SIRs	Houston Lab	Lab	Yes
3	Aaren Alger	Aaren.s.alger@gmail.com	1/23 (first term)	SIRs, Assessment Forum	Alger Consulting & Training	Other	Yes
4	Patty Carvajal	pmcarvajal@sara-tx.org	1/25 (first term)		San Antonio River Authority	Lab	Yes
5	Stacie Crandall	scrandall@hrsdc.com	1/24 (first term)	SIRs	Hampton Roads Sanitation Distr.	Lab	No
6	Mike Delaney	mike@mikedelaney.org	1/23 (first term)		Retired (MWRA)	Other	Yes
7	Jack Farrell	aex@ix.netcom.com	1/25 (second term)	Mentor Session	Analytical Excellence	Other	No
8	Brian Hulme	Hulme.brian@epa.gov	1/26 (first term)		EPA R2	Other	Yes
9	Silky Labie	elcatllc@centurylink.net	1/25 (second term)	SIRs	ELCAT	Other	Yes
10	Bill Hall	George.W.Hall@des.nh.gov	1/25 (second term)	SIRs	NH ELAP	NELAP AB	Yes
11	Shari Pfallmer	Shari.pfallmer@pacelabs.com	1/25 (first term)		Pace Analytical	Lab/FSMO	Yes
12	Michele Potter	michele.potter@dep.nj.gov	1/24 (second term)		NJ DEP	NELAP AB	Yes

Associate Members

	Debbie Bond	DBOND@southernco.com		SIRs	Alabama Power	Lab	Yes
	Carl Kircher	carl.kircher@doh.state.fl.us			FL DOH	NELAP AB	No
	Dorothy Love	dorothylove@ET.eurofinsus.com		Mentor Session	Eurofins Environmental	Lab	No
	Mitzi Miller	mitzi.mqc@gmail.com		Mentor Session & Assmt Forum	Retired	Other	No
	Judy Morgan	Judy.Morgan@pacelabs.com		Assessment Forum	Pace Analytical	Lab/FSMO	No
	William Ray	Bill_Ray@williamrayllc.com			Wm Ray Consultants	Other	No
	Mohan Sabaratnam	msabaratnam@iasonline.org			IAS	AB (non-gov.)	No
	Nick Straccione	nstraccione@emsl.com		Mentor Session	EMSL	Lab	No
	Katie Strothman	katie@sanderslabs.net			Sanders Labs	Lab	No
	Program Admin. Lynn Bradley	Lynn.bradley@nelac-institute.org					Yes